

Disability Now

This month

8
BREAKTHROUGH
Medical advances

9
DN INVESTIGATION
The bottom line

11
INTERNATIONAL
Yugoslav eye-view

12-13
SEX AND DISABILITY (2)
Older people speak out

15
ARTS
Lucy Jones interview

16
SHARE YOUR PROBLEMS
The challenge of ageing

16
PROFILE
Frances Hasler

17
MOTORING
Rover 200 and
Back Tech seat

20-23
CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs quota ignored

Figures just released in the Department of Employment's *Gazette* show that the Government and public sector have not improved their record on employing disabled people. The figures are virtually unchanged from the previous year.

In the year to May 1989 no nationalised industry or government department fulfilled the 3 per cent quota of registered disabled employees, which is legally binding on private sector employers and has been accepted by the Government too.

Only 1.4 per cent of all government department employees were disabled. The Department of Health is one of the worst offenders with only 0.4 per cent disabled.

One hundred and ninety five out of 197 local health authorities in England and Wales employed fewer than one per cent disabled people.

"It's another way that total lack of commitment is shown towards disabled people," said Nigel

Continued on page 3



Pooling their talent. From left: Gary Philip, Sam Tebbboth, Steffan Marshall and Gareth Thomas at the British Sports Association for the Disabled Grand Metropolitan Junior Tournament in Brentford last month. Around 100 young people with physical disabilities, aged 12-17, travelled from all over the UK to compete in seven events.

GRAHAM BOOL

ILF plans threaten independence

Disability organisations fear that Government plans for the Independent Living Fund will threaten the independence of many disabled people and some may even have to go into care.

Although the fund is to be doubled this April to £20 million, the recent benefits review (see *DN* February) revealed that in April 1991 the ILF budget will be transferred from independent trustees to local authorities and administered as part of their community care arrangements.

How the money will be allocated to local authorities has not yet been decided.

Until now individuals have been able to choose and buy their own care.

Pauline Thompson, general

secretary of the Disablement Income Group and an ILF trustee, thinks local authorities will be too inexperienced to care for severely disabled people. She said DIG was "fighting a rearguard action" to have the fund continued in some form.

"We have got to be worried about everybody under the new proposals, but we are extra-worried about the intensive cases," she said. "There is a real danger they will be bunged back into care."

She added: "We have shown what community care costs. There is no way we are going to let these people disappear."

DIG is consulting with the Government.

Royal National Institute for the Deaf chairman Winifred

Tumim, also a trustee, said: "It is appropriate that most of the money should be transferred to local authorities. The ILF administers a lot of cases we believe the local authorities should be dealing with. But the money will not be ring-fenced so there should be some other protection for disabled people."

The important thing is for them still to have choice in the care they get."

The ILF has helped at least 3,000 people since it was set up in April 1988, replacing the Domestic Assistance Addition.

But many of ILF recipients have personal care costs previously unmet by any benefits.

One Shropshire man, paralysed from the neck down, was

Continued on page 3

Here they are!



You asked for less expensive Chairman Cars... well here they are, the **New** Chairman Vistas, **plus** the **New** Motability leasing service. It's **so** easy!

Dial 100 Freephone Chairman Cars for details of our extensive range, or write to:

Gowrings Mobility, Freepost, RG490 Newbury, Berkshire RG13 1BR. Tel: 0635 71502

GOWRINGS
MOBILITY

Motability

Law inadequate for abuse victims

New evidence shows that many mentally handicapped adults are sexually and physically abused and have inadequate legal protection.

In a survey, yet to be published, by Bristol psychiatrist Leila Cooke, 15 out of 22 psychiatrists around Britain reported that 4-5 per cent of their patients were abused, although they suspected a much higher number.

The abuse was likely to be sex-

ual and to happen in the home.

"I think the findings may well be reflected in other parts of the country," said Dr Cooke.

Most of the psychiatrists want the 1983 Mental Health Act amended so that a guardian can be appointed who can authorise a place of safety order. At present a guardian can only be appointed if the person is aggressive or seriously irresponsible.

"If any articulate group in the community was served by the law

in the same way there would be an outcry," said Adrian Ward, a lawyer who has just had a book published tackling the problem.

He added that a change in the law could only work after a change in awareness.

The Law Commission is about to examine the matter.

The Power to Act by Adrian Ward, the Scottish Society for the Mentally Handicapped, 13 Elmbank Street, Glasgow G2 4QA. £6.95.



Scaling new heights. Seven young people with mental disabilities setting off with their support team last month to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. They come from MacIntyre, a charity providing residential care, education and employment for mentally disabled people. Money raised from the ascent will be split between the Jacaranda School for mentally disabled children and adults in Nairobi and the Stackpole Centre in Pembroke.

Tory MP highlights design flaws

A Conservative MP has said the Government and local authorities should introduce stricter building design regulations because most housing takes no account of the needs of the majority of people, including those who are elderly or disabled.

Andrew Rowe is co-author of a new report, *Lifetime Homes*, which has won all-party support. It says that most houses are designed for one fifth of the population: those who are male, fit and young.

Speaking at the report's

launch Mr Rowe said that more suitable buildings are needed if the Government's community care policy is to work.

"It is no use putting people in the community if the homes you are asking them to stay in are physically incapable of sheltering them."

He argued that the Government should introduce regulations to make builders allow for needs such as space for wheelchairs.

Sarah Langton-Lockton, chief executive of the Centre on En-

vironment for the Handicapped, which gives advice on housing for elderly and disabled people, was pleased that so much interest had been shown.

"We would like to see the design regulations about access which apply to public buildings extended to private builders as well," she said.

Lifetime Homes, a seminar report on all age housing from the Helen Hamlyn Foundation, 8 Bryanston Mews East, London W1H 7FH. £8.50.

Social Fund in the dock

The Government's Social Fund is being challenged in the High Court on the grounds that people in need are being illegally denied help.

Three cases, backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and Sheffield Law Centre, claim that the way the Fund is being run is incompatible with its stated aim in the 1986 Social Security Act.

When the Government introduced it in 1988, replacing single payments for essential household items with a system of loans and grants, it apparently intended to give local officials wide discretion

as to who got help.

But the Fund's fixed budget and the rigid guidelines laid down by the Secretary of State for Social Services are preventing officials from dealing with individual cases on their merits, argued the counsel for the three applicants, Richard Drabble.

One of the test cases directly challenges the Fund's fixed budget. As the number of Social Fund claims increases, cases that qualify within the rules are being denied help because their claims are given lower priority than others.

£50m loan gets go ahead

The first loans to enable health authorities to build new community facilities in advance of closing mental hospitals will be made from June, Junior Health Secretary Roger Freeman announced last month.

The money will come from a £50 million central "bridging fund" which will run over three years, with health authorities invited to put forward schemes for £10 million of loans in the first year, £15 million in the second and £25 million in the third.

The scheme follows a promise by Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke last year that discharges of seriously mentally ill people from hospital would take place only when adequate social and

medical care was available outside hospital.

Many health authorities have been unable to afford to develop local community services until mental hospitals have been run down and closed, leaving an interim period with no adequate services.

Roger Freeman, speaking at the Social Services Select Committee meeting in the Commons last month, said he could not say how many people would benefit from the loans scheme. Initially it will involve "a handful of district health authorities", but he hopes hundreds of mentally ill and mentally handicapped people will benefit in the first year and thousands in subsequent years.

CARS FOR THE WIDE OPEN SPACES

Here's a better way of getting out and about. Or rather, several ways because whatever size car you prefer, Citroën offer certain advantages. Like an abundance of headroom, legroom and luggage space; as well as impressive performance, economy and reliability.

Both the AX and BX are easy to drive and park thanks to fully independent suspension, positive steering and good all-round visibility. Both place high priority on comfort and specifications that include folding seats. Both give a

choice of diesel or lead free petrol engines. In short, they have what it takes to fit in perfectly with your individual requirements.

On the small car front, the popular AX is incredibly economical and boasts class-beating roominess that belies its size. In the medium car bracket, the BX is one of today's outstanding successes; in fact, the BX is the UK's best-selling diesel.

To see how they could open up a new world of driving enjoyment, send for further details. Together with information

on the financial benefits of obtaining your Citroën by Motability.

To: The Fleet Motability Coordinator, Citroën UK Ltd, 221 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4BA.

Please send me the appropriate information on the AX, BX and details of the Motability Scheme.

Name _____

Address _____

DN _____



CITROËN

CARS FEATURED BX16TGS £9,249, AX11TGE £5,950. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO

PRESS AND INCLUDE: CAR TAX, VAT, FRONT/REAR SEAT BELTS. DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO: CITROËN UK LTD, 221 BATH ROAD, SLOUGH SL1 4BA.

Princess Diana raps employers

The Princess of Wales said last month that she hoped prejudiced employers would get the message "loud and clear" that they were contributing to making deaf people feel like strangers in the hearing world.

Speaking at the centenary lunch of the British Deaf Association of which she is patron, the Princess said the deaf community wanted to play a full part in society.

"Sadly society seems reluctant to play its part. Access to education, employment and recreation is slowly improving for those suffering other forms of handicap. But for deaf people, many special obstacles remain," she said.

"Low educational standards, restricted training opportunities and prejudiced employers all conspire to limit the deaf person's enjoyment of full membership of our community."

Princess Diana, who has learnt to sign since she became the BDA patron in 1983, said hearing people should make an effort to imagine life without hearing and spoke of the loneliness of deaf children, 90 per cent of whom have hearing parents.

This was echoed by MP Jack Ashley, also speaking at the lunch, who said communication was the crux of all deaf people's efforts and problems.

"When speech is devastated by deafness, it imposes a unique burden on deaf people and children, especially those born deaf."

He said that educational disadvantage led to lack of oppor-



Princess Diana signing with a deaf pupil from Newcastle.

tunity and isolation.

The BDA was founded in 1890 by deaf people and now has 78 local branches and 18,000 members. To celebrate its centenary there will be over 75 events around the country throughout the year.

Seven million people in Britain have some form of hearing loss.

The British Deaf Association, 38 Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1HU, tel: (0228) 28719 (DCT), (0228) 48844 (voice).

ILF plans

Continued from page 1

looked after by his mother, aged 82, before he was awarded about £400 per week from the ILF for about 15 hours care per day. The remaining £100 per week comes

from the local authority.

"At first the authority offered me institutional care," he said. "They were only willing to give me any money when the ILF stepped in and said they would fund me at home. The ILF is the only thing you can turn to if your local authority turns you down."

John McClean, 29, of London, fears the new arrangement will remove the independence out of the Independent Living Fund. He has Friedrich's Ataxia and gets £2,000 per month for 15 hours care per day. "It would be like taking the reins out of my hands," he said.

Minister for Social Security Nicholas Scott told *DN* last month he was not worried about the future of the ILF, and he would be considering how to deal with cases which local authorities could not administer.

He will consult ILF trustees this summer.

Quota ignored

Continued from page 1

Ellis, policy officer for employment at the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation.

"Local authorities are the largest employers in some areas," he added, "so you expect them to set some sort of example."

The Cabinet Office (OMCS) Equal Opportunities Division is producing a revised code of practice on the employment of disabled people for all government departments in the spring.

Anger at cap in hand images

Chris Davies reports

Disabled people are fed up with the way disability is portrayed in charity advertising and they want to control the images used.

This was the view of 38 disabled people at a conference held in London last month. Cap in Hand was open only to people with disabilities.

Jane Campbell, a vice chairperson of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, traced the history of charity advertising and the different ways disabled people have been portrayed – usually negatively.

David Hevey, a disabled photographer, deconstructed some well-known posters produced by The Spastics Society, Winged Fellowship and the Royal National Institute for the Blind, to show how simple images can be "manufactured".

It was decided that a code of ethics on the portrayal of disability should be drawn up and a statement of intent is to be published later.

The conference was chaired by Rachel Hurst of the UN Global Project to Promote the Decade of Disabled People.

Contact Disability Arts in London, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU.

Last minute change to poll tax rules

At the eleventh hour the Government has announced that seriously mentally ill people are to be exempt from the poll tax (community charge).

It announced last October that people with Alzheimer's Disease were to be exempt, in addition to those born with a mental handicap or who had suffered brain injury. But the Department of the Environment was reported to be working on a wider definition of severe mental impairment.

In a letter to the National Schizophrenia Fellowship on 18 January, junior health minister Roger Freeman said: "People whose impairment has resulted from mental illness or degeneration will qualify for exemption."

Since then the NSF has discovered that GPs were informed of this in a letter from the Department of Health dated 3 November.

It said that the criterion for exemption in all cases would be whether, in the GP's clinical judgement, the applicant's social functioning and intelligence were severely impaired because of arrested or incomplete development of mind, mental ill-

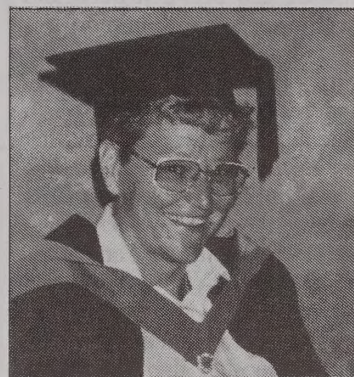
ness or dementia, resulting from brain injury or other causes, and that the impairment appeared to be permanent.

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship estimates that up to 50,000 people will qualify for exemption, depending on GPs' interpretation of the regulations.

Judy Weleminsky, director of the NSF, welcomed the news as excellent but said the change had come very late in the day: "How will the Government ensure that the seriously mentally ill know they can claim exemption? What about all those who have been discharged from hospitals into lonely bedsits? Who will tell them?"

"People who could be exempt need to see their GP, use this information supplied by Roger Freeman, obtain a doctor's letter and apply to their local authority community charge registration officer for full exemption."

Only people getting either invalidity pension, severe disablement allowance, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance or unemployability allowance will be eligible for exemption.



Elly-Maria Pantekoek (left) receives a BA honours degree in arts and social sciences from the Open University. The OU gave Ms Pantekoek, who has a progressive nerve disease, extra time for exams and a printer was bought by charities. "It would not have been possible any other way," she said. OU Central Enquiries Service, PO Box 71, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, tel: (0908) 653744.

DisabilityNow

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Tel: 01-636 5020.

Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Geraldine Holden

Reporter

Rebecca Reynolds

Editorial Assistant

Catherine Holloway

Circulation Gayle Mooney

Advertising

Jonathan Wine,

Kingslea Press Ltd.,

12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road,

London SE16 2XU.

Tel: 01-252 1362.

Typesetting by FMT

Graphics Ltd., 182 Union

Street, London SE1.

Printed by Goodhead

Group plc, Bicester, Oxon.

The views expressed in *DisabilityNow* are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.

Copyright

©1990 The

Spastics Society.



Rifton Trikes

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

7 models – large and small

- Hand or foot driven
- Fully adjustable

- Multiple supports
- Built to last

Write for the full colour catalogue and see our wide range of equipment for people with disabilities: Rifton, Attn: DN, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5DR Tel: (0580) 880626 Fax: (0580) 881171



IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Disabled Persons Act 1986

After questions on implementation of the Disabled Persons Act 1986 Roger Freeman (Cons) talked about sections 1, 2 and 3 which have yet to be implemented.

These sections provide for disabled people to appoint representatives, and require local authorities to take into account the views of disabled people or their representatives when planning services for them. The local authority must give disabled people information which they are entitled to and, when asked, must produce a statement of the services they will provide.

Mr Freeman said: "It would be irresponsible to consider only the administrative costs of implementing sections 1, 2, and 3. We must also look at the underlying resource assumptions for providing the services." He added that consultation with local authorities would start shortly.

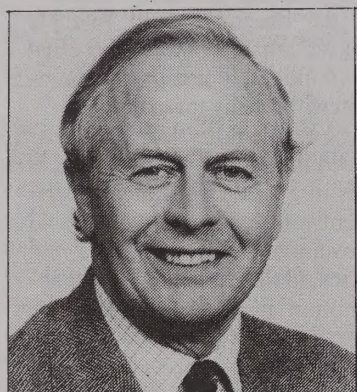
Mr Loyden pointed out that 40 per cent of local authorities are not making provision for wheelchair access to enable disabled people to have access to information. Mr Freeman said that in 1990, £31m will be made available to help local authorities provide services under the parts of the act already implemented. He added that parts 1, 2 and 3 of the act would be reviewed as soon as possible.

But Tom Clarke (Lab) was sceptical about the Govern-

ment's commitment to community care because it had not yet fully implemented the act, which he described as a "framework for involving disabled people, their carers, and advocates in contributing to the formulation of policy which is important to them."

Disabled people debate

Alf Morris (Lab) moved an opposition debate on disabled people on 24 January, based on the disturbing findings of the OPCS, and the unacceptable gap between disabled and non-disabled people in income, employment and other opportunities. He asked the Government to respond to the Disability Benefit Consortium's calls for a comprehensive, independent review of benefits.



John Hannam

He said the death of Beverley Lewis highlighted the huge and growing gap between need and provision. "Expert opinion has pointed to the relevance of Section 1 (3) d of the Disabled Persons Act 1986 in preventing such tragedies. It is scandalous that Sections 1 to 3 still await implementation, nearly 4 years after its enactment.

"The problem is not one of resources, but of political will and priorities.

"The Government give the impression that they have won substantial extra resources for

improving disabled people's benefits - but 90 per cent of the extra spending is due to increased take-up. The savings on the benefits to be scrapped will outweigh the modest new benefits introduced in *The Way Ahead*."

In response, Nicholas Scott, Minister for the Disabled, moved a counter motion congratulating the Government on doubling the expenditure on social security since 1979 and bringing in the new benefits proposals.

"We have made tremendous advances in take-up of benefits," he said, "of which we are proud. The disability proposals have three aims: to improve the coverage of help for extra costs, to improve benefits of those unable to work, and to help disabled people to get and keep jobs."

Mr Scott reiterated the promise to start consultations with local authorities about implementing Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the act. He said there was new money in the public expenditure estimates, but did not say how it would be allocated. Mr Scott's motion won.

Jack Ashley identified the main difficulties of disabled people as poverty, lack of rights, discrimination and unemployment. "The Government has failed to tackle these problems effectively," he said.

"We need a comprehensive disablement income payable according to the severity of the disablement and not according to means. The 1986 Act should have been implemented long ago. The US is leading the world by passing a bill outlawing discrimination and giving disabled people new rights. Britain should lead in this way.

"We should see the quota system enforced and follow the system of Germany where a levy is imposed on employers who do not fulfill their quota."

He added that the Govern-

ment should stop "throwing exemption permits around like confetti".

This was backed up by Bob Wareing (Lab) who quoted The Spastics Society study (see *DN* February) and the British Deaf Association's report as evidence of widespread discrimination.

John Hannam (Cons), on the other hand, thought that during the 20 years of the All-Party Disablement Group, disabled people had come to play a full role in the community and had not suffered setbacks as suggested by Jack Ashley.

HOUSE OF LORDS

TEC Councils

On 15 January Baroness Turner (Lab) raised the issue of Training and Enterprise Councils which provide employment training for disabled people. She called for a national TEC to coordinate and support local TECs. Lord Strathclyde, Employment Under Secretary, replied that although the idea was attractive, the TECs were intended to be locally responsive and flexible.

Embryo research support

The Lords has voted by 234 to 80 to allow experiments on human embryos within 14 days of conception.

The free vote, on 8 February, came after a debate on an amendment put forward by the Roman Catholic peer, the Duke of Norfolk, which would have effectively wrecked the Human Fertilisation Bill, now at committee stage.

Speakers supporting the amendment included the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard, Lord Rawlinson and Baroness Elles (Con). Speakers against included the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, Lord Hailsham and Lord Jenkin.

Pauline Graham

IN BRIEF

BP helps Banstead to mobilise

British Petroleum has given £237,000 towards the cost of the Banstead Mobility Centre's move to Carshalton, London this December.

The new centre will have a covered area for wheelchair test drives, and will be good for teaching defensive driving techniques to elderly disabled drivers.

There will be enough space for conferences and education, and to employ staff who use wheelchairs. Over £250,000 is still needed to convert a building at Orchard Park, near Queen Mary's Hospital.

Tourist competition

A Europe-wide competition to find the best tourist facilities for people with disabilities has been launched by the European Commission.

The competition is being coordinated in the UK by the English Tourist Board.

It will be judged by disabled people looking for practical and creative facilities.

The competition is open to any company or organisation except those catering exclusively or primarily for disabled customers. Closing date is 30 April.

New Milton Keynes centre

Britain's first centre for educating and treating mentally handicapped people over 16 years old (see *DN* December) will be built at Shenley Lodge in Milton Keynes.

The Spastics Society's Oak Tree International Project will also train health workers from the UK and abroad. It will be near shops and services, and part of the site will be developed for people from the local community.

Deaf abuse campaign

Keep Deaf Children Safe is a campaign to make people more aware of sexual and physical abuse of deaf children. It started in January after research showed that many social workers do not know how to deal with cases of abuse, and that deaf children find it even harder than hearing children to tell adults when they have been abused.

The campaign will counsel deaf children and their parents and train health workers to communicate with deaf children. It is funded by the National Deaf Children's Society and the Nuffield Speech and Hearing Centre.

Margaret Kennedy, the researcher, would also like to hear from disabled people who have suffered physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Write to her at the Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

Correction

Roseanne Barnett received an MBE for founding Headway's Reading branch, not the national organisation, as reported in last month's *DN*.

THE
Nobel

POWELL INDEPENDENT DON'T PUSH IT

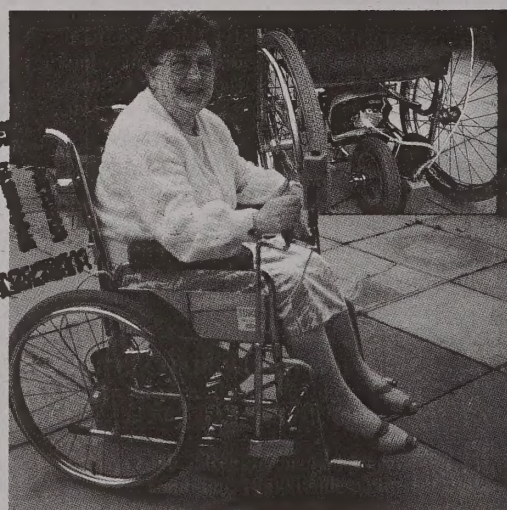
CONVERT IT

Supplied in kit form and can be simply fitted in 10 minutes converting your manual wheel chair to power with

- Left or right-hand steering and power controls.
- Attendant or occupier power control.
- 4-6 mile range.
- 24 amp hr - 12v battery.
- Automatic battery charger.
- Forward and reverse facility.
- Transmission braking.
- Battery state indicator.
- Battery overload safety cut-out.
- Manual clutch release.
- Assembled or dismantled within 1 minute.
- Automatic half speed reduction when in reverse.
- Variable speed control.

W Leisure

This product is **not** manufactured by the Powell Seat Company of Derby.



The "Nobel Powell Independent" Wheel Chair Conversion Unit at £599.00 Delivered free of charge in the British Isles.

For more information and telephone order service, ring on our freephone link line 0800-262-503 or complete the coupon below and send to

W S Leisure
Roundwood Drive, Sherdley Park Industrial Estate,
St. Helens, Merseyside WA9 5JD.

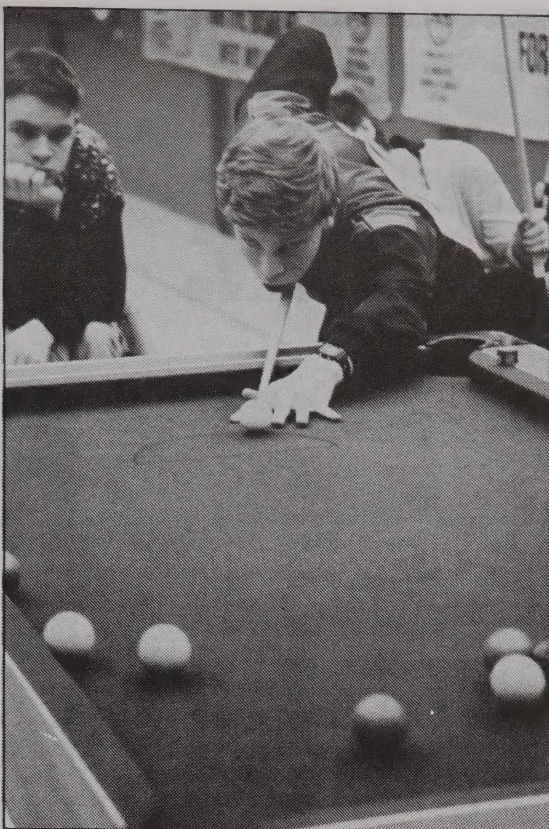
Name and address (in block letters please)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

DNG



Concentrated effort. Dawn Wicks (left) and Glynn Hammond competing in boccia and snooker at the BSAD Grand Metropolitan Junior Tournament in Brentford last month.

GRAHAM BOOL

Deaf/blind people "uncared for"

Deaf/blind people are "relatively unknown and uncared for", according to the first report which interviews deaf/blind people in the community face to face.

The situation is so bad that social service departments cannot meet their obligations towards deaf/blind people under the 1986 Disabled Persons Act because not enough is known about

them and their needs.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf interviewed 52 people in the Greater Manchester area. Nearly half had never been visited in their home by a social worker.

The RNID recommends close interviews with deaf/blind people to find out their needs, and says more workers should be

trained to communicate with them.

The report highlights leisure and education needs, as nearly 90 per cent of deaf/blind people are unemployed.

Hungry Minds and Neglected Personalities from the RNID, 105 Gower Street, London W1CE 6AH. £1.95.

First increase for London taxicards

London's 40,000 taxicard users are facing an increase in the flat fare from £1 to £1.25, beginning 1 April 1990.

This is the first increase since the Taxicard Scheme went London-wide in 1984 and has been agreed by all of the 30 boroughs who participate.

At present, after paying the flat fare, users get subsidised travel up to £7. This is to be increased to £7.75.

Doreen Chaney, chair of the London Taxicard Users Association (TUA), does not think the increase is unfair but said it will affect people who use the service for short journeys, eg to local shops.

"This is now going to cost them £2.50 for a return trip, rather than the 60p it costs a bus user."

The TUA says the average number of journeys users make is four to five a month. Many make no journeys in a month or just a single trip.

In 1988/89 the total cost of the scheme was £5.2 million, paid for out of boroughs' social security budgets. Some boroughs limit the service by restricting the number of people who can use it; others by restricting the number of trips people can take, and some by both.

Doreen Chaney thinks that if

they must, boroughs should go for trip limitation, not membership limitation. One return trip per member a week is the lowest acceptable limit, she says.

The number of boroughs who do not put any restrictions on trips or membership outweighs those who do.

The TUA is campaigning for central Government funding to help those boroughs struggling to pay for the scheme. All members have been asked to write to their local MP and the Association's AGM in March is to be held in the House of Commons, sponsored by MPs Jo Richardson and John Bowis.

"In the boroughs where restrictions are imposed, demand outstrips supply," said Doreen Chaney. "And we are still finding people who know nothing about the service."

People who get Mobility Allowance, War Pension Allowance or are registered blind can have immediate entry to the scheme. Others need a signed statement from their GP that they cannot use public transport or can only do so with difficulty. The boroughs of Westminster, Barnet and Redbridge are the only boroughs not in the scheme. They run their own schemes with varying regulations. Taxicard Users Association, tel: 01-871 5164.



Our sales staff understand both sets of wheels.

For many years now, Ford have been at the forefront of developments for disabled drivers. We provide support for Banstead Place, the disabled drivers' assessment centre and have been involved with the Motability schemes right from the beginning.

If you qualify for a Mobility Allowance you can use it to get a substantial discount on any car from Ford's extensive range.

At almost every one of our main dealerships there is a member of our sales staff with special responsibility for Motability clients.

They are kept up-to-date with the latest developments and can therefore offer advice on any conversions or special equipment that may be required to make driving easier.

Ford also make cars specially adapted

for disabled drivers, though these look the same as other cars from the outside.

So if you or any member of your family qualify for a Mobility Allowance and want to discover the advantages of driving a new Ford, then please fill in the "Freepost" coupon on the right or contact Ford Personal Import Export Limited, Mobility Dept. DN, 8 Balderton St., London W1Y 2BN. Tel: 01-493 4070.

Freepost Ford, London W1E 8EZ.

Please send me full details of the Ford Mobility Scheme and the Ford Cars brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____



IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE TOTALLY DEAF AND STILL HEAR ABOUT EVERYTHING.

Soundbarrier

THE LEADING MAGAZINE FOR DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Soundbarrier is the only magazine that covers all aspects of hearing loss, from examining the latest hearing and technical aids to giving advice on the most effective ways to treat tinnitus.

We publicize educational and employment opportunities for people with hearing problems as well as special leisure schemes.

We review deaf related subjects in the media and our features look at the lives of

deaf people, showing how they manage to succeed in spite of the odds.

Soundbarrier is published by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

We call on their expertise whenever we need to but we have complete editorial independence.

So whatever your hearing problem, subscribe to Soundbarrier and hear everything that's going on.

For an annual subscription to Soundbarrier, please complete the coupon enclosing a cheque or postal order for £6.00 made payable to the R.N.I.D. and send it to: Soundbarrier Subscriptions, 105 Gower St, London WC1E 6AH.

Name _____ Address _____

C
DN3

Alternative ways of helping cp

Rebecca Reynolds goes to the first meeting

Twenty-five people, mostly with cp, came from around England to The Spastics Society's first Alternative Therapy Day in Milton Keynes in January. The aim was to find out if reflexology, biomagnetics (see last June's DN) and shiatsu could help.

All three therapies take the principle that the body has energy channels which can become blocked, upsetting the body's equilibrium, so they have to be unblocked.

Morning and afternoon sessions lasting several hours gave everyone the chance to try the therapies. Afterwards there was strong agreement that they had been helpful.

"I think today has been a success," said David Day from Hertfordshire. He said he would try to get shiatsu at least every few months.

Only three of the people who

tried the treatments had regular physiotherapy.

"It's a shame we don't get any physio," said Marlene Pettit from Hertfordshire. "The most I can get is lying on my bed."

Organiser Eileen Milnes added: "People are physio'd to death by the time they are 18, but there is nothing afterwards. There comes a time when you want physio again, but under a different name."

She believes Alternative Therapy could "have a tremendous knock-on effect" for others. Carers would find it easier, for example, to bath and dress a person if they were not in so much pain.

As yet there are no definite plans for alternative therapy to become a regular part of The Spastics Society's programme. "We are just testing the water and seeing where we can go from

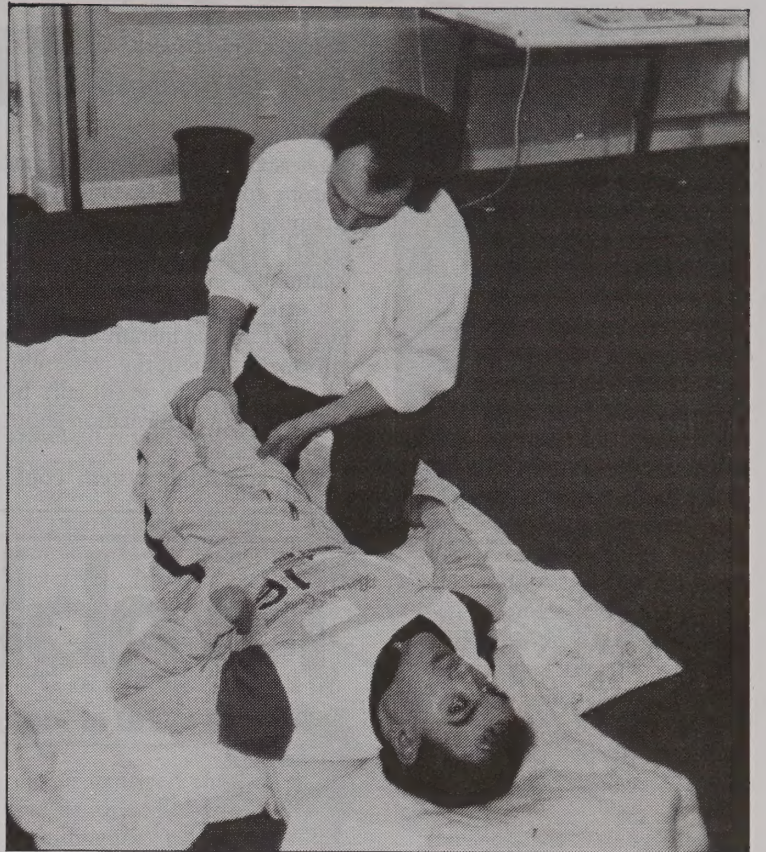
here," said Mrs Milnes.

Alternative Therapy is not available widely on the NHS, although some individual physiotherapists practice it. Aromatherapy and acupuncture are used at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire for pain relief in rheumatic complaints.

Scope, the charity which promotes alternative therapy, offers the Alexander Technique, reflexology, shiatsu, biomagnetism and aromatherapy. It treats about ten disabled people at the Warwick Road day centre in Westminster, London.

The Spastics Society wants to hear from disabled people interested in alternative therapy. Write to Eileen Milnes, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Send donations for Scope to 10 Coney Acre, Croxted Road, West Dulwich, London SE21 8LL.



Nicholas Pole "does a shiatsu" on David Day.

REBECCA REYNOLDS



The masseur and his audience concentrate on the neck area.

RAINBOW CARE AGENCY

specialises in high quality carers for disabled people.

Perm, temp, full/part time, live in/out. Our service is tailor made to suit your individual requirements.

All enquiries welcome. Contact: Mrs J.D. Newport, Rainbow Care Agency, 684 Sidcup Road, New Eltham, London SE9 3AL. Tel: 01-857 3371.

Registered employment agency no SE 17724.

REHAB NETWORK

REHAB NETWORK is a quarterly publication dedicated to providing in-depth information on what is being done in Britain and abroad to rehabilitate and employ people with disabilities. It focuses on work and related aspects, including: Government policy, new technology, data bases, good employer practise, social security, research and developments overseas.

REHAB NETWORK is also a publication for employers, particularly equal opportunity employers, who are committed to improving their knowledge and understanding of the capabilities of disabled people and their roles as valued employees in business and industry - from management to shop-floor level.

REHAB NETWORK provides a two-way flow of information, linking practitioners, employers, researchers, policy-makers and others concerned with the rehabilitation and employment of disabled people and, of course, disabled people themselves.

Annual subscription £9.50 incl. of p&p - for a complimentary magazine write to Robert Levy at the Rehabilitation Resource Centre, Department of Systems Science, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB

Relaxing the Shiatsu way

Marlene Pettit, back in her wheelchair after being prodded on various parts of her body for ten minutes, says she feels "much more relaxed than usual".

Jean Dalton only has her feet treated but nods vigorously when asked if she feels different.

Shiatsu is Japanese for "finger pressure". It is similar to acupuncture, but the masseur uses fingers instead of needles to press gently on crucial points of the body.

Shiatsu masseur Nicholas Pole believes there are "meridians" - lines of energy flow

within the body - and that by treating certain points in the body, other areas can be helped.

"Everything in your body is connected to everything else," he says.

Shiatsu is not a cure for cp, but because it releases emotional stress Mr Pole believes it can help prevent muscle spasms. "By the end of the day it became clear to me that muscle spasms are caused as much by the stress of having cp as by the condition itself".

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis can also be treated with shiatsu.

"ME is beautiful to work on," he says.

He believes the therapy can actually prevent some physical illness because it unblocks the body's energy channels.

Mr Pole would like to work with more disabled people. At the moment he sees clients privately and works one morning a week at an NHS-backed project for elderly people in Hackney, London.

Nicholas Pole, 30 Hamilton Gardens, St Johns Wood, London NW8 9PU, tel: 286 5630. Sessions cost £15-£20 and there are concessions.

QUEENS COURT LUXURY NURSING HOME



Queens Court Nursing Home, (formerly the Queens Hotel), offers an incredible variety of activities and facilities, providing the very best and latest equipment for the disabled, for respite and long-stay care. We understand that life is for living. Take a look at what we have to offer, and then please call us to see how we can help you...

- Ballroom
- Live entertainment
- Party nights
- Cocktail bar
- TV lounge
- TV & phone points in each room

- Two 15-person lifts
- £1 million spent on refurbishment
- Conservatory
- Day trips

- Hairdressing salon
- Restaurant
- Video club
- Specialist nursing care
- Activities officer

Facilities for the disabled and their carers

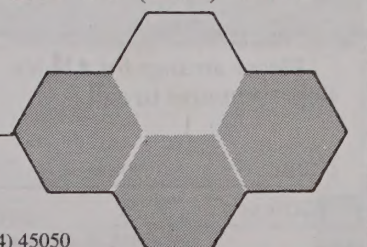
(0492) 516732

For more information, please contact Reception.

Queens Court, Abergele Road, Old Colwyn, COLWYN BAY. Tel: (0492) 516732

Care Link
Because life is for living

Queens Court is part of the Care Link Group.
Care Link Head Office: 150 Lord St., Southport. Tel: (0704) 45050



DN launches an occasional series reporting on the latest medical developments

Hi-tech help for diabetics

Over six million people across Europe could be helped by a new computer network which gives expert advice about diabetes treatment.

Eurodiabeta gives family doctors and nurses instant access to information about the condition, and patients may eventually be able to feed in information about themselves.

The screening system could

also halve the 5,000 amputations carried out in Britain each year because of gangrene caused by diabetes.

"We would identify people who are not aware they have diabetes," says Jeremy Holland, who works at the project at St Thomas's Hospital, London. He estimates there may be up to two million people with diabetes in the UK.

If the project is successful, similar systems may be set up for heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, epilepsy and allergies.

Genetic clue to heart disease found

Scientists have discovered a faulty gene which contributes to the risk of heart disease. Screening for the defect could become a reality in the near future.

The newly identified defective gene is responsible for raised blood cholesterol in some people, one of the major causes of heart disease.

The scientists, working in the UK and Scandinavia and co-ordinated and funded by the British Heart Foundation, found that the gene, known as apo-B, can be transmitted from parents to children and that even young children who have inherited the gene have raised blood fat levels.

Dr Steve Humphries, director of the British Heart Foundation research group, said: "Although the mutation was only found in roughly one in a hundred patients, screening for this defect may become a reality in the near future."

"Once identified, those individuals affected may be offered dietary advice or cholesterol-lowering drugs to manage their raised blood fat levels, and so reduce their risk of heart disease."

The tests would also enable doctors to reassure other family members who are not carrying the faulty gene.

Progress on spine damage treatment

There has been progress on one of the two main hurdles to treating spinal injuries.

Scientists at Zurich University have stimulated damaged spinal cord nerves in rats to grow again by giving the animals antibodies.

Paralysis in humans with spinal injuries cannot be treated because their damaged nerves do not regrow. If the nerves could be encouraged to grow, the next step would be to ensure that they made the right connections. The wrong ones could lead to further paralysis.

These new experiments, reported in Volume 343 of *Nature*, are in their very early stages but could ultimately lead to treatment for humans.

Visionary work on blindness

Also reported in Volume 343 of *Nature* is a genetic breakthrough on the cause of one form of blindness called retinitis pigmentosa.

Using the same techniques that identified the genetic defects associated with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis, doctors in the United States have discovered a single mutation in the eye pigment rhodopsin.

The mutation is only linked to some forms of this particular type of blindness but each genetic discovery could open the door to further advances.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.

TESTED AND APPROVED TO 1988 SAFETY REGULATIONS B.S. 5852 Parts I & II

Tumble Forms

THE THERAPEUTIC AND POSITIONING SYSTEM BUILT TO LAST

REVISED CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE

DELUXE FLOOR SITTERS

- 3 sizes ● 2 colours ● Easy clean
- Complete with wedge
- Complete with harness or lap strap

TUMBLE FORMS ROLLS

- 9 sizes ● + barrel roll
- Seamless ● Hardwearing
- Solid core for additional support



JETTMOBILE

- 2 sizes ● Hip strap
- With or without positioning shapes
- Concealed castors

CARRIE SEAT

- 3 sizes ● Buggy option available
- Adjustable headrest, footrest, back angle
- Activity tray

☐ Please arrange for a Sales Representative to call.

☐ Please send me further information on the full Tumble Forms Range.

Name

Address

CAMP

Send coupon to Camp Limited, FREEPOST, Northgate House, Staple Gardens, Winchester Hants SO23 8ST.

DN3

What is the bottom line?

Geraldine Holden reports on a widespread but taboo problem

"I cannot think of anything more essential to me."

"I write not just for my daughter, who cannot write or speak for herself, but for all the other disabled and elderly people placed in residential care...with nowhere else to go, having to pay extra for this out of meagre savings and fixed allowances."

Both these people are talking about the same thing – incontinence supplies and the problem of paying for them. Because incontinence is virtually a taboo social topic, a widespread problem is going unsolved and ignored.

Health authorities are "empowered" to supply incontinence supplies like pads, which are not available on prescription, to people in their own homes and, at their discretion, to residents in local authority homes and voluntary residential homes.

This means that the authorities are not *obliged* to provide incontinence pads to anyone, whether in the community or in residential care.

Private nursing homes are totally exempt from free health authority supplies because the NHS is not supposed to subsidise the private sector.

In practice the supply of free incontinence pads is a lottery dependent on the priorities and budgets of local health authorities – in some areas people in their own homes or in residential homes get free supplies, in others they do not.

Christine Norton is development officer for the Association of Continence Advisors (ACA). She points out that not only does supply vary from area to area but

"Incontinence supplies are an easy target for a health authority cutting its budget"

so does quality.

"We did an internal survey among the nearly 300-strong membership of ACA and found a complete discrepancy between areas; there is no rhyme or reason. Some health authorities are excellent and people get choice and a proper supply. Others provide rubbish and limit supplies, so that when you run out, you have to buy your own."

She says that in some areas where health authorities do not supply pads, people are left without anything and have to resort to tearing up old sheets.

The situation also throws up other anomalies:

● an incontinent person living at home, getting free supplies, may no longer be entitled to them if they move to residential care

● incontinent men often use penile sheaths which are available free on prescription if they are registered disabled; women, who need pads, or people who are doubly incontinent, can end up paying because pads are not available on prescription.

"These people are at the mercy of their health authority," says Christine Norton. "Incontinence supplies are an easy target for a health authority looking for ways of cutting its budget."

One 78-year-old disabled woman, living in her own flat on attendance allowance, wrote to Baroness Masham after Rotherham Health Authority decided to discontinue supplying incontinence pads except to terminally ill people. A month's supply would cost £40.

"I am being undermined at my weakest point," she wrote. "I value my independence above all. The pads help me to keep my dignity."

Baroness Masham raised the case in the House of Lords and



Lady Masham: health districts "stupid and cruel".

contacted Rotherham HA which reconsidered its decision.

But she is concerned about all the other people in a similar situation.

"These things are not a one-off. People have to live with it every day. It is the sharp end of care in the community. There ought to be a safeguard for severely disabled people, otherwise all the costs of their disability are on them. If they try to do without the pads, this leads to pressure sores and ultimately more money being spent by the NHS treating them."

Derek Torr is West Devon registration officer for Devon County Council. In his area there are over 170 registered homes for about 2,500 elderly people. About a third of them have some form of incontinence.

Over two years ago the local health authority decided to stop issuing free incontinence aids to people in residential care. Many home owners then decided to charge their clients for pads.

"The situation has now become accepted practice. Relatives and elderly people don't know any other system. I don't put the blame on owners but on the health authority. An old person in their own home would get free pads from the district nurse, so why should they not get them if they go into care?"

He knows of one old man who served in both World Wars who has to choose between paying for his pipe tobacco or his incontinence pads.

The Spastics Society is becoming increasingly concerned about the number of parents with children in residential care who are having to fund the full cost of incontinence pads.

Campaigns and Parliamentary Officer, Brian Lamb, says the Society cannot accept the argument put forward by health authorities that such items can be purchased out of social security allowances. He says that it represents a considerable drain on parents' resources, many of whom are already topping up the fees asked for by residential homes.

One mother in Sheffield, whose 26-year-old daughter has cerebral palsy and lives in a Leonard Cheshire home, already tops up its fees by nearly £500 a year.

Since her daughter, Susan*, went into the home it has become a private nursing home, so the health authority does not supply free incontinence pads to it.

The home wrote to Susan's mother asking her for over £40 a month for her daughter's incontinence pads because it was an extra cost they had not envisaged and were unable to cover.

Six months of arguing and letter writing later, the home did agree to pay half the cost.

"I still think it is iniquitous that they can charge for something which is a basic necessity," says Susan's mother. "If she had been at home, I could have got the pads free."

A letter to the Social Security

**This name has been changed.*

Secretary Tony Newton produced the reply: "Unfortunately there is nothing the Department can do to help."

The Cheshire home suggested that the only area where an economy could be made was on Susan's yearly one-week holiday, although it said this would be "a great pity".

Susan's mother said this hit her right between the eyes. "Last year she went to Skegness and it cost £500. It's just a change of surroundings. To say that some-

week to spend. "Who says poverty does not exist?" asks Betty Fisher.

Her mother has since moved into local authority sheltered housing and is getting the pads free.

The whole problem looks likely to grow as the number of elderly people in homes increases and the gap between income support and fees remains.

For disabled people living in the community, it could be a threat to independence.

Christine Norton says incontinence supplies are crucial to supporting people in their own homes. "If health authorities are not giving good quality aids, then people are vulnerable and cannot cope."

Baroness Masham says pressure needs to be brought to bear on central Government to remove the uncertainties and expense of incontinence supplies from disabled people and their relatives. She says that if cutting incontinence supplies is an efficiency saving in some health districts, "they seem to be downright stupid and cruel".

She is due to meet with Age Concern England and The Spastics Society to plan how best to bring pressure on the Department of Health.

"It is the sharp end of care in the community"

one so deprived should have to give up their holiday to pay for incontinence pads makes my blood boil."

People with elderly, incontinent, relatives in nursing or residential homes are in the same situation. Mrs Betty Fisher's mother was in a private residential home. She became incontinent but pads were not available free from the Health Authority. After board and lodging payments were paid out of her benefits, plus £5 per week for a toilet in her own room, she was left with £5.05. The pads cost £3.10 for 18, leaving £1.95 a

If things are to change, disabled people need to make their voices heard. So if you have to pay for your incontinence supplies and feel this is unfair, write to *Disability Now* describing your problems. We will pass your letters on to the Association of Continence Advisors, which will use them as evidence to present to the Department of Health.

POSSUM 2000/PSU6 Environmental Control System

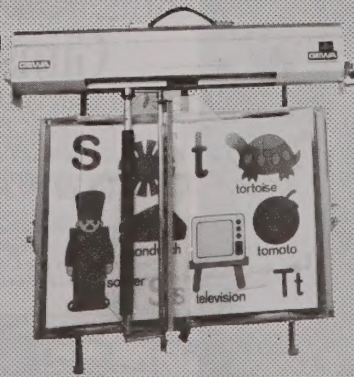
FREE OF CHARGE
to disabled people meeting
Department of Health criteria

- Controls up to 30 appliances per room in up to 3 rooms
- Gives full control over special loud speaking telephones, compatible computers and printers, alarms, intercoms and door lock release
- Ideal for use in education, training and employment
- Built-in communication and text editing facilities
- Range of inputs available
- Video available on free loan



GEWA Page Turner

- Simple to use for adults and children
- Turns pages forwards and backwards
- Handles most page sizes
- Can be used suspended over bed
- Range of inputs available



PLAYTIME Ball Pool

- Ideal for rehabilitation therapy with children
- The buoyancy from the lightweight, coloured balls helps to stimulate movement
- Encourages interaction and builds confidence in nervous or autistic children
- Various sizes and shapes can be made by adding extra panels
- Made from fire retardant materials



POSSUM I am able

Possum Controls Ltd, Middlegreen Road,
Langley, Slough, Berkshire SL3 6DF
Tel: 0753 79234 Telex: 846198 POSM G

Name:
Address:

Please send further details on:.....

Send to: Possum Controls Ltd, FREEPOST,
Middlegreen Road, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 6BR

DN
9001

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

The drinks are on us

Ms Una Austin in her letter (*DN* January), refers to the apparent lack of a drink being available for appellants attending our tribunals.

I am sorry if that is the impression.

We have looked into the question of vending machines, but have decided that they would not be cost-effective.

However, anyone needing a drink, eg to take medication, should ask the clerk. Notices to that effect will be placed in the tribunal waiting rooms.

E Smith

Regional Administrator
Social Security Appeal
Tribunals
London North Region

Comebacks on DET

The Disability Equality Training Section of the London Boroughs Disability Resource Team has been operating a successful programme for four years to local authorities, voluntary, public and private sectors.

The trainers are all disabled people who have undergone an intensive training programme in order to address disability and equality issues in a highly professional manner.

There is a long waiting list for people who wish to become trainers and priority is given to

applicants from black and ethnic minority groups as these groups are at present under represented in our register of trainers.

Any disabled person who has a thorough understanding of disability issues, is familiar with equal opportunities and thinks they could become a trainer should contact me, address below.

The intention of this letter is to correct misapprehensions among readers which seem to have been caused by Margaret Morgan's article (*DN* February): that the LBDRT provides an avenue for disabled people to express their life experiences and/or personal views on disability, or that we provide counselling for disabled people.

The LBDRT wants to stress that our programme of training is highly developed and we concentrate on the social model of disability in our training courses.

Kath Gillespie Sells
Training Co-ordinator
LBDRT
Room 92/3, County Hall
London SE1 7PB

In Margaret Morgan's column (*DN* February), Tracey outlines some of her difficulties, and oh how I sympathise, because they are similar to mine.

She and others might be

interested to know of Roger Jefcoate, who helps people to get things which social services don't provide.

In Tracey's case I have in mind a miniature typewriter keyboard which translates typed messages into synthesised speech.

I wanted a computer and saw Roger's name in a magazine, so I wrote to him.

He got me the computer and when I was being assessed it was decided that I should have one of these talking typewriters as well.

Write to Roger M Jefcoate, Willowbrook, Swanbourne Road, Mursley, Bucks MK17 0JA.

James Straughan
Cleveland

I would like to introduce *DN* readers to IDEA (International Disability Education and Awareness).

It is a small organisation offering training and advisory services on disability issues here and in the Third World.

One of our team is a disability equality trainer and runs courses in disability awareness as well as training other disabled people to be trainers.

We will soon, we hope, be looking for another trainer.

Bee Maidlow
IDEA
101 Eden Vale Road
Westbury, Wilts BA13 3QF

Quality not quantity

Your SIC column (*DN* December) refers to the relative number of home help hours provided for the over 75's by the

"Top twenty", ie Labour-controlled, and the "Bottom twenty", ie Tory-controlled, local authorities.

We wish to suggest that a comparison is meaningless. What counts is the quality of service offered and, from our experience, we aren't over-impressed.

Although not the age mentioned (being in our mid-40s), we have been eligible to receive home help for some years, because I have muscular dystrophy and my wife suffers from a painful, tiring blood disease.

Helps came and went – supervisors have a funny habit of changing them as soon as you get to know them – with varying degrees of enthusiasm, efficiency and good-humour, until twelve months ago we decided to stop having them: they were doing less and less work, less and less competently.

It got so that my wife (in spite of how she felt) had to start going over what the home helps should have done properly in the first place, and for which we were paying £1.50 an hour.

When we wrote to the supervisor explaining why we no longer wanted the service, we didn't even get an acknowledgement of our letter, never mind an attempt to put things right.

Our council, as it happens, has a Labour majority (just), but I'm not sure it makes much difference.

Bernard Clarke
Whitefield, Manchester

In defence of Center Parc

Having just returned from a wonderful holiday in Sherwood Forest Center Parc, I was somewhat baffled by Mrs Grayson's letter (*DN* February).

My wife and I booked a chalet "on the level" and that's what we got. An £8 booking fee for a "specified location" was waived because I am disabled with MS.

I took with me an electric scooter to get around and a folding hand-propelled wheelchair for the subtropical swimming area, which guests and many local disability organisations use.

Center Parc's commitment to disabled visitors is evident in a Teletext page on the chalet TV specially for disabled swimmers.


When I arrived in the dome, I was shown to one of several "disabled changing" rooms by the nurse and an attendant offered to clean the tyres on my chair before entering the pool! Wheelchair access is through a door at the side of the pool.

Access into the water is via a gently shelving flight of steps but to one side there is a ramp.

Apart from dining out, the only extra expense was my riding session (£8.50 for one hour), my wife's sauna (£6 all afternoon) and bike hire (£7.70 mid week).

The £7 for "club facilities" is a standard charge added to the booking form. If you eat in your chalet and just use the pool, there are no hidden extras and prices from £88 for a mid-week break in January is not unreasonable.

Terence Wilson
Colchester




nimbus

The new single flight stairlift from Gimson

Two years in development, Nimbus leaves the competition standing, combining safety, reliability and unrivalled aesthetic appeal in an impressive array of standard features.

- ★ Overspeed governor for greater safety
- ★ Fingertip control
- ★ Two folding armrests
- ★ Full range of accessories
- ★ Easy to install - existing decor unaffected
- ★ Fits left or right hand stairs
- ★ Easy to relocate
- ★ Optional non-intrusive rail ending



Gimson
STAIRLIFTS
A Walker Greenbank Company

Find out more about this new generation lift and the widest range of stairlift products available in the UK.

Please send me further information on

☐ Nimbus Straight Flight Stairlift

☐ Stratus Round The Corner Stairlift

☐ Personal Lift ☐ Wheelchair Lift

Name _____

Position _____

Authority _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Gimson Tendecare Limited
FREEPOST
62 Boston Road, Beaumont Leys
Leicester LE4 1AZ
Telephone (0533) 366779
Telex 341513 GIMSON G
Fax (0533) 366198

DN3

sic

Quote, unquote 1

Black humour time. Minister for the Disabled Nicholas Scott assured the Commons last month that "anyone who is given the terminally ill allowance will keep it for life". Ouch.

Quote, unquote 2

"Surely 'disabled person' and the rest are simply woolly ways of saying 'cripple', a good old English word that contains no hint of an insult." So said Jonathan Guinness, director of the brewing dynasty last month. He obviously didn't frequent the same sort of playgrounds as yours truly.

War of words

Flick MacDowell of Kent disliked *The Guardian* Health page's repeated use of "the disabled" and wrote to say so, suggesting "people with disabilities" instead, as "it puts the emphasis in the right place and encourages a growth in understanding that we are all 'people' first".

She got this reply from Health page editor John Illman (Ill-man? Health page?): "I must say I thoroughly disagree with the sentiments you are expressing, and believe it would be highly insulting to the disabled to play about with phrasing in the way you suggest."

RADAR, the Royal Association for Disability and

Rehabilitation, has a routine reminder to editors on its press releases to use "people with disabilities" and not "the disabled". So which do you prefer? Readers could write to Mr Illman at *The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and tell him.

Brave new world

Unveiled in London last month was a prototype "Community-Link payments collection vehicle", rapidly to become known, I would predict, as the poll tax van. Designed by Securicor, the idea is that it will help local authorities to collect payments from the estimated 25 per cent of the adult population



without bank accounts.

And surprise, surprise this is one occasion when access for disabled people *has* been taken into account. Payment can be "effected through a side hatch on the vehicle" (see above).

So if you're a disabled adult living in the community and the idea grabs your local authority, the Community-Link vehicle could become as familiar as the dust men's lorry – but a lot less welcome?

Disabled in Yugoslavia

The federation is crumbling, inflation has been running at 2,000% a year, but life in Yugoslavia for a disabled person has compensations – and certain similarities with Britain. “Micky” Stojanovic explains

I am 32 and live in Zemun, a small town which is now part of Belgrade.

I'm working for an MA in History and writing a film script which has been commissioned by a TV studio in Belgrade. Its main character is disabled!

Although I am not able to walk on my own – I have cp – I have managed to live like any other man of my age because I have been determined to get on with things by myself. I have also had a lot of help from my friends and my mother.

Much of my early childhood was spent at the Centre for Physical Therapy in Belgrade or at home being read to by my parents or my grandmother.

At the age of seven, I was sent with a group of cp children to a hospital in Prague, Czechoslovakia, for two years, where I had an operation which helped a lot.

A few months after I returned home my father died in a car crash. He was a film director and had been working on location in Turkey. His death was a great loss to me and my mother but not the end of our world. My mother carried on the struggle for me and my education.

mother wanted me to go to university to study law, agriculture or languages, because in those faculties you were not required to go to lectures every day and the agriculture faculty was a few hundred yards from my home.

But I wanted to go to the faculty of dramatic arts, a couple of miles away, which would mean

“As parents want the best for their children, they think they know best what their children want”

attending every day. You are taught creative writing for theatre, film, radio and TV, a multi-media course because the Yugoslav market is not wide enough to provide jobs for specialist writers.

Of 50 applicants, seven were accepted and I was among them. My mum was too proud to say she was unable to take me every day for the lectures.

I can't find words to express how I felt during my studies. I actually had a chance to go out and see shows and from my

obstacles. Quite often a heavy guy who can't walk has to live in a flat on the fourth or fifth floor without any lift or ramp, and if, for example, his parents are old, he can only go out when he manages to organise a help squad.

Changing flat is out of the question, because there is a huge shortage of flats in Belgrade, and all over the country.

We have a Spastics Society in Yugoslavia (YUSS for short) but it operates only on district and regional levels and is run by a council whose members are parents of disabled people.

As they want the best for their children, they think they know best what their children want. (It doesn't matter that “the children” are 25 years old or more.) So they accept new ideas only if they can be fitted into their ready-made plans and those plans are almost the same as they were in the late Fifties when YUSS was born.

The YUSS council is aware of the problems we have with education, training, getting a job, or importing equipment we need, but the administrative maze is so complicated in Yugoslavia that even the most obvious things are very hard to come by. So council members have become rather disheartened.

What we do have in Yugoslavia is a disability benefit – not enough to live on, but a help. We are also able to get a new powerchair or wheelchair every



Micky braves the cold of Zemun's city park.

ZORAN ZDRAVKOVIC

few years.

If someone has a car he is allowed to park in places where parking is not permitted.

Disabled people can go with a friend for free to the new performance centre in Belgrade for plays or movies and this is fully accessible and has good facilities. But the only place where a disabled toilet is available is the airport, and even there the pavements are too high for a wheelchair to climb.

The list of what we don't have and do need could go on and on. The point is that the people in charge of public facilities just don't stop to consider that a person in a wheelchair might well want to go in.

But disabled people can overcome the lack of proper facilities with the help of people around. Ordinary people in the streets of Belgrade are very helpful. I'm sure it must be the same in England.



Micky and Zoran on a busy street in Whitby.

In September that year I started going to ordinary primary school. My mother had to take me to school every day and wait there, but she didn't mind.

Several truths my mother had taught were brought home to me: that I could not always be right and I could not win every game. I learned to be a good loser but not to give up until the goal was reached. I still stick to that.

The time at school was maybe the best of my life so far. There were 30 of us and something was always happening. It didn't matter who loved or hated whom, we were together, with more or less the same problems: how to get good marks, how to pass our exams if we hadn't studied hard enough, and so on.

Now my old schoolmates are scattered, so we don't meet often and I miss that very much.

After secondary school, my

lecturers and teachers learned about things I was reading about.

What a feeling when I finished writing my first one-act play. I thought my heart would burst with happiness when my radio adaptation was performed.

In 1981 I spent two lovely weeks in Tenerife with a friend and there I met a British family with whom I've since stayed several times.

To have a disability newspaper like *DN* is something we in Yugoslavia can only dream of. Also, I was at first quite surprised by the number of disabled people on the streets: I thought that there must be more disabled and elderly people in England than in Yugoslavia.

But then I thought it over and realised that England just has more facilities.

We are frustrated by a lot of structural and architectural

BUDDY

The User Friendly Buggy

BUDDY is a stable and reliable pushchair and is the ideal solution for those who wish to combine a correct sitting posture with manageable daily transport. One frame with three interchangeable seat units allows the buggy to grow together with the child from the age of 1 to 10 years.

If you would like to introduce your special child to a BUDDY, please call us to arrange a demonstration.



Please send details of BUDDY

DN3

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Rainbow Rehab, P.O. Box 546, Bournemouth BH8 8YD. ☎ (0202) 32651

DN/3/90

Sole distributor for **ALVEMA** products.

In the second of two features, DN asks people about dating agencies, spinal cord injury, ageing and residential living

Sex and disability: more people

"We had to develop elaborate ways of getting together without anyone knowing"

says Sebastian from the Midlands
May and I met over thirty years ago in a residential unit which is now part of The Spastics Society.
In those days, severely

disabled people found themselves in institutions being treated like pet animals – being patted on the head and told to keep quiet.

As for having a sexual relationship, that was considered immoral and totally out of the question. Yet the people who cared for us could, even in those days, talk openly about their own sex lives whilst going about their daily routine.

In the Sixties there was no way in which a severely disabled person could have a sexual relationship with their partner: there were no private rooms in which residents could meet, let alone have intercourse.

Staff were just unaware or unable to comprehend that a situation would arise where residents would want or could have a physical relationship. If a member of staff was found encouraging such a relationship, it would result in their dismissal.

When May and I discovered that we had more than just a passing friendship, we had to develop elaborate ways of "getting together" without anyone knowing. These would

include clandestine meetings at the back of the television room or behind a tree, but always within earshot so that if we were called we could appear as if nothing had happened.

That is how our relationship had to continue for about five years until there was a change of management within the centre.

Luckily for us the new management had not been brought up in "the dark ages" and was "forward thinking" about the possibility of disabled people forming emotional and physical relationships.

They relaxed many of the "house rules". We were now free to meet in each other's bedrooms and staff were instructed that if a bedroom door was closed they must now knock and wait for an answer before barging in.

This gave us much valued privacy and space without fear of "getting into trouble" and our relationship developed to the point where 12 months later we and about seven other couples became formally engaged.

Unfortunately, this was as far as it went.

The management actively

discouraged us from getting married.

We had to wait another four years until new management arrived.

A meeting was held with all the engaged couples. It was pointed out that there was no reason why two bedrooms could not be knocked into one, which would enable us to consider the ultimate step.

So twelve months later we married. Man and wife at last, not only in name but with an active sexual relationship blessed not only by the society, but society itself.

During all this time, not only did we have to contend with the dark ages and The Spastics Society's attitude to marriage, but our parents' attitudes as well.

May's parents took many years to come to terms with the fact that their little disabled girl was capable of any form of relationship, never mind marriage or sex. Mine were more understanding and thought that one day it would happen.

Now May and I live happily together in a flat of our own, just like any other couple.

"I guess I always felt you're paralysed, and, well, have no sex life"

by Ed Hooper*

Although I was upset that one of my best friends thought of me as sexually dead, I was sure his opinion was one most people held.

I think we men learn at a young age that masculinity is measured by the erected inch – and then most of us slowly unlearn that absurdity. But to suggest to men that an erection should be unimportant is akin to asking them to agree that breathing is unimportant.

But we can live sexually active and fulfilling lives without actually feeling penile arousal or "getting it up".

When I finally got the nerve to deal with my body again after my injury I discovered that with direct stimulation I could maintain an erection – but I had no feeling whatsoever. (For men who can't sustain an erection and who feel one is important, there are penile implants and prosthetics available.)

Disability can teach profound lessons too: I discovered that by using my penis for giving pleasure – even though I was "feeling" nothing with it – I could still receive pleasure.

I attended a peer group session on sexuality and listened to folks trying to quell the obsession with what they called "The Big O": Orgasm.

It was quite possible, they were saying, for only one of the partners – or neither – to reach orgasm, as we defined it pre-disability, and still have a most fulfilling encounter. It's true.

My brain hasn't figured out I'm supposed to be asexual. It keeps sending erotic messages. But the focus of where I receive

those messages has changed from my penis to other areas of my body where I do have feeling: my shoulders, neck, lips, ears.

With intimate contact in these areas, coupled with the knowledge that I am giving pleasure too – by kissing, touching, embracing – my heart begins to race, my head gets warm, my mind surges, aggressively pursuing its feelings. The excitement builds to a level of intense pleasure – then subsides toward contentment.

Yes, it's like an orgasm: not with the intensity brought on by ejaculation, though the loss of control is similar. It's in no way "merely" a mental phenomenon. Sexual pleasure now is a physical and mental meld.

I could have used this insight before my disability: that when something erotic is happening to not force it but let both my body and mind respond. Physically it's not as pleasurably intense. But mentally, sex is better for me now than before my disability.


What do my wife and I miss? Spontaneity for sure – since we have to plan our encounters more now. And I'll admit that sometimes we miss the old missionary position.

My sexuality's become a matter of knowing what my capabilities are and fitting those into a mutually satisfying relationship with my wife.

We all deserve the opportunity for the closeness, the intimacy, the mutually accepted pleasure of one another as sexual human beings.

I shudder to think how much love and lovemaking has been abandoned by people with paralysing disabilities because of the belief that "it just doesn't work". It does!


*This is an edited version of an article in *The Disability Rag* November/December 1989, produced in the USA by people with disabilities.

Powered By  Pure Air


AT LAST A MULTI-PURPOSE LIFTER

THE NEW MANGAR BOOSTER!

PORTABLE

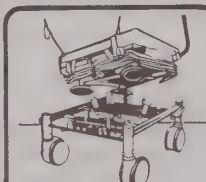




lifts from floor to chair or bed



and in bathroom

AND THE MANGAR BOOSTER BUG!

Detachable . . . At Home . . . At Work . . .

I WOULD LIKE A FREE BROCHURE ☐ A FREE DEMONSTRATION ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

DN3

For further details CONTACT: **Mangar Aids Ltd.**,
Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2UF
Tel: No. 0544 267674 Sales Dept.
Approved by Stoke Mandeville Hospital
A British Product shown in the Design Centre London.

TEN POUNDS £10 TEN POUNDS

DISCOUNT VOUCHER

With the compliments of M J Fish & Co

3 Riversway Business Village, Navigation Way, Ashton on Ribble, PRESTON PR2 2YP
Tel (0772) 724442 Fax (0772) 733773

This voucher may be redeemed as part payment against a new comprehensive 'Keep Mobile' policy only and can not be offset against mid term adjustments, renewals or any other product or service provided by M J Fish & Co.

'Keep Mobile' is regarded the best motor insurance policy available for disabled people and is guaranteed to be 10% cheaper than your current policy - even without this special introductory offer.

Full details of the 'Keep Mobile' policy are available on request

Please cut out and retain the voucher.

Return the completed coupon to M J Fish & Co, 3 Riversway Business Village, Navigation Way, Ashton on Ribble, PRESTON PR2 2YP

Please send me further information (tick box)

☐ 'Keep Mobile' Car Insurance ☐ Holiday Insurance ☐ Other Insurance Problem

☐ Powerchair Insurance ☐ Other Insurance Problem

☐ Disablecare Life Insurance (Provide details on separate sheet)

☐ Justice & Care Insurance

☐ Home Insurance

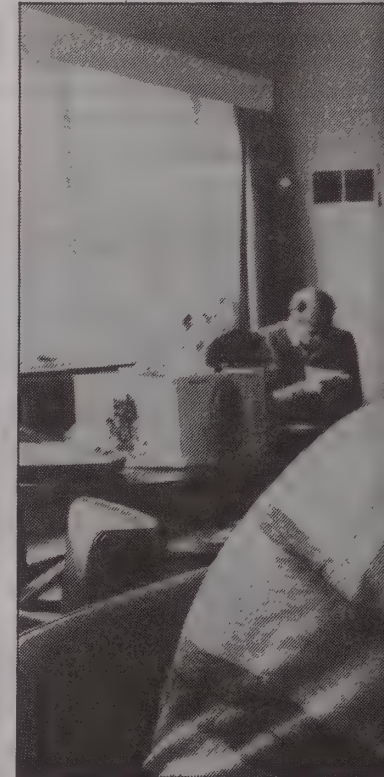
Name

Address

Telephone No

Date of Birth

DN3



Today's residential centre: free



Happiness for Falklands war veteran Weston: his fiancée Lucy Tither

Ask about their setbacks and successes



day for Harry and May – see right.

“We made the most of something we did not know would last for well over 50 years”

says Jane Saxby from Liverpool

I am a widow aged 86. My husband died last year at 88 after more than 62 years of marriage – 57 of them included sexual activity.

We married in 1926 when taboos and ignorance about physical needs prevailed and privacy for courting couples was not encouraged.

Inhibited and modest, I had been reared in a very religious home where questions about babies and bodies and information gained in the school playground were frowned upon and punishable.

My husband's family were more liberal – in conversational

exchanges – and his father told my young man that pleasure in marriage was not only for men and would be heightened if shared by wives.

My husband respected and loved his father and after the first urgency was satisfied by the freedom of marriage, he restrained himself, and by long love making, with tenderness, stroking and relaxed closeness I changed to become a wife who enjoyed the release and the knowledge of my own sexuality.

We made the most of something we did not know would last for well over 50 years.

As we aged, to 60, then to 70, intercourse was less frequent and intense but on holidays and anniversaries and birthdays we always celebrated our love and good fortune.

When my husband was in his 60s, he experienced the discomforts and inconvenience of prostate gland infection and at 69 an operation was necessary.

Our doctor told him that sexual activity might cease, but this was proved wrong. After several weeks he wanted to resume and I cooperated and

assisted.

We still had our double bed, occupied ever since our marriage, but I now sometimes slept on a divan in the spare room if I came in late or went to bed early to read and rest, or was passing through sleepless bouts to which I was subject.

We would sometimes start the night together or alternatively end it in the early morning with tea and a cuddle after.

So it went on until my husband was 77 and needed cataract operations. These were successful and he was about to resume driving when detached retinas occurred – he had five over

nine months – which meant hospitalization and treatment and no driving. (I had never learned to drive.)

Life became difficult. He was depressed, fearing blindness, and his personality became negative and withdrawn.

Quality in our lives was hard to maintain. Only in our continued physical closeness did he seem relaxed and happy. We only had each other; contemporaries were gone; we were over 80.

As well as encouraging him to come out walking, joining in social activity with other older people and listening to music, I always tried to respond to intimate expressions of affection. We kissed and cuddled often.

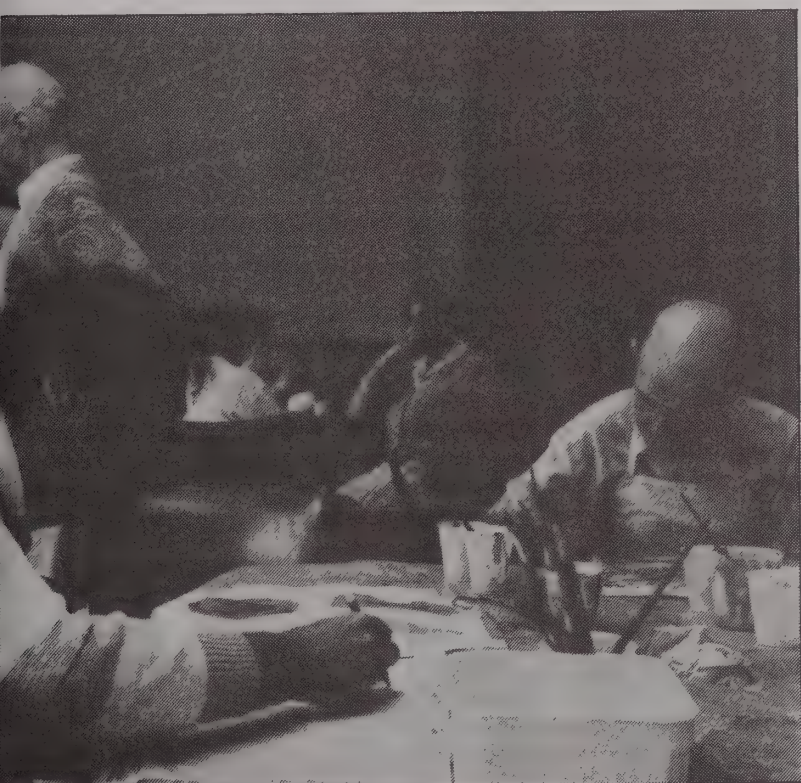
I now believe that the self esteem of men can diminish in age when they retire and exchange the daily programme of work for domestic life.

But there is time to dally and this sustains virility and confidence and, I believe, is healthy and can lead to long life. It did for us.



Jane Saxby

After reading the two *DN* features on sex and disability, do you have any comments which would interest or help other readers? Write to *DN*.



our paints – and your partner?

NEIL JOHNS

“Joining a dating agency I thought would be a way to increase my friends”

says Pat from London

Yes, it would have been marvellous to have been important enough to someone for him to want to share the rest of his life with me. But it didn't happen.

Nevertheless, I have had a full, active, and, I think, successful life. I have been proud of being able to live alone and run a career as well.

I have always been irritated by people who have patted me on the arm and said, “Well, never mind, dear. I'm sure you *will* get married one day”, as if that was the one passport to fulfilment and success.

Still, there *are* problems in

being alone. In middle age, when most of one's friends are in couples, it becomes difficult to find a companion for outings, or holidays, or just for company. There are times when one needs to give or receive love and affection.

Joining a dating agency I thought would be a way to increase my circle of friends. If I found a husband, that would be a bonus, but I honestly wasn't sure that that was what I was looking for.

Dateline International had a good reputation. It is a commercial concern, open to all.

Before filling in the forms I explained that I had a disability. I was assured that this was no barrier.

I paid £85 for a year's membership, and then £3 for each list of six names I was given. At the same time my name,

address and phone number were given to men.

I was disappointed that Dateline declined to send a short introduction I had written about myself to the men who had my name on their lists. It meant that they rang me with no prior warning that I had a speech disability. For most of them this was a shock that they could not handle. Almost all rang off when I had spoken three words!

I decided to introduce myself by letter to the people on my lists. That way I could describe my interests and activities – allowing me to be a woman first, and a woman with disabilities second.

I actually met two men. Both were pleasant enough. I would have been interested to meet them occasionally as friends, but not as potential husbands. On the other hand, they were definitely looking for wives.

Of the rest to whom I wrote, most wrote back – politely – saying that they had already found their perfect woman.

Reading the adverts in Dateline's own magazine *Singles* (£1 monthly in newsagents), I realised why I was meeting such resistance.

The *Singles* adverts describe the advertisers and who they want to meet. Virtually all the men advertise for an “attractive” woman. Nearly all – men and women – claim to be slim. All spend a great deal of space describing looks, but very little on interests. Star signs seem to be important!

In other words, many, if not most, people using Dateline have a clear idea of who their “perfect” partner would be, usually based on physical perfection.

In spite of the letters I received claiming success, I wonder how many of these hopefuls really meet their dream partners?

After three months I asked Dateline to take my name off their lists. I decided that I had spent a lot of money just to court further rejection. To Dateline's credit, it refunded most of my membership fee.

This summer I shall try Holiday Helpers, and I am also considering having a lodger.

There are dating agencies especially for people with disabilities eg *Handicate*, or one could try the *New Statesman & Society* adverts which seem less concerned with appearance.

THERAPOSTURE

Independence in the home at the touch of a button

There is a Theramatic specification for many uses in Domestic, Residential/ Nursing Homes and for the chronically disabled, under-bed clearance allows for the feet of a hoist. Variable height is available.

Independence is a boon at home, and in the Nursing Home, benefits staff utilisation.

Chest and spinal conditions are eased 'at the touch of a button'. An optional message unit will aid circulation without raising the heartbeat and relieves muscular tension.



SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

Theraposture Ltd., FREEPOST, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9YT

Please tick: — BED ☐ CHAIR ☐

Name

Address

Tel: _____ DN3

Theraposture Ltd.,
FREEPOST,
Warminster,
Wiltshire BA12 9YT.
Telephone: (0985) 213440
Telex: 444337 - ACTBUS

BOOKS

Take Charge

by Rami Rabby and Diane Croft
National Braille Press, on loan from
the RNIB, 224 Gt Portland Street,
WIN 6AA, tel: 01-388 1266.

Take Charge makes some very good points, but I feel the book would have made far more impact if it had been something like a quarter of the length.

The authors regard job hunting as a full time occupation – 25 to 40 hours a week – commendable, but difficult to put into practice.

There is a strong psychological emphasis, particularly when they deal with the strengths and weaknesses of the reader's personality. They really make blind job seekers take a close look at themselves.

But the whole book is geared towards the American job market and I feel its approach would not work in this country – the publisher should consider bringing out an English edition.

Research seems to be a key word. You are urged to be interested in every aspect of the company you are investigating, even as far as the perks like a company car. Interesting, but I would have thought highly dangerous!

There is a recurring message in this book that "employers want to employ problem-solvers not

problems" and "attitude and approach are two big words in the world of work", so if you want to find out more about banking, invite your favourite teller out to lunch.

I know that if you are blind you have to break down barriers to get a job, but this rather pushy approach could meet with resistance over here.

The authors talk about the need for part-time job experience; suggestions include packing in a supermarket, serving in a petrol station, or doing a paper round. All this supposes that you are confident with mobility.

They say that "mobility is the first step to higher self-esteem": if you take a relative or friend to an interview, it is the kiss of death for the job; if you have got yourself there, then you are halfway to resolving the employer's fears.

One chapter, "Your personal calling card", gives very useful hints on writing a C.V. The applicant should stress abilities and treat the disability as an almost throwaway comment.

The book describes some helpful interviews with personnel officers on the subject of disclosure. Most of them said it would badly affect the outcome of the interview if they did not know that an applicant was disabled.

In fact, in the majority of cases, if the applicant had not revealed their disability, the personnel manager had very hostile feelings towards them. It was acceptable



"Deaf man with his hand", a litho by Trevor Landell in the Out of Ourselves exhibition, held in London last month.

to disclose the information when arranging interview times rather than in the C.V.

Other helpful comments concerned image and dress sense. These things are difficult to check out if you are blind.

This book would be of value to teachers, social workers, and so on, as well as to blind people. But

if you took everything on board, you would need a full-time job to buy all the publications and tapes as well as meet the cost of careers counselling and legal advice.

We are fortunate not to have to worry about paying for such help. Perhaps we don't value it nearly enough.

Lin Berwick

Directory for Older People

compiled by Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kinrade
(Prentice Hall International Ltd, 66 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2, £17.95)

The message of this directory is clear: retirement from work should not mean retirement from living. It encourages older people to play more significant roles in society. This will be vital in the 1990s as the number of older people increases.

I learnt a new acronym. A "Jolly" is a "Jet-setting Oldie with Lots of Lolly" – not, however, as common as advertising executives imply.

A well-researched chapter called Money Matters should help the many non-"Jollies" to make ends meet. The book also suggests ways to make money and explains how to claim expenses for voluntary work.

Practical advice is offered, and a wide range of contacts. Did you know, for example, that it is a good idea to wear a woolly hat in and out of doors and in and out of bed? We lose about one third of our body heat through our heads.

There is much to enjoy in this book on topics ranging from Carry on Learning to Healthy Living and Sex in Later Life.

Altogether a very good book to read, keep and refer to. But it is expensive so make sure that your local library has a copy and then recommend it to your friends.

Margaret Morgan

COLLEGE FIELDS

Merton, Surrey



... Specialised Homes to Help Disabled People Help Themselves

Galliford Sears, Tilbury, Thamesway and Bellway Homes will be releasing late in 1990 a range of studio, one and two bedroom flats at ground level on their joint development at College Fields, Merton.

As part of the development as a whole, several types of flats are being designed specially for disabled people. As well as the usual features that are incorporated into New Homes, numerous extras are being added for your comfort, like ramps, widened doorways for wheelchairs, grip rails in bathrooms, easily accessible light switches and sockets etc.

Although these properties will not be available until late 1990, and so we have no price range available at present, for further information please contact Louise Macpherson, Marketing Manager, Galliford Sears Homes Limited, Freepost, Castle House, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1BR — Tel no: 0737 353411.


Galliford Sears
HOMES

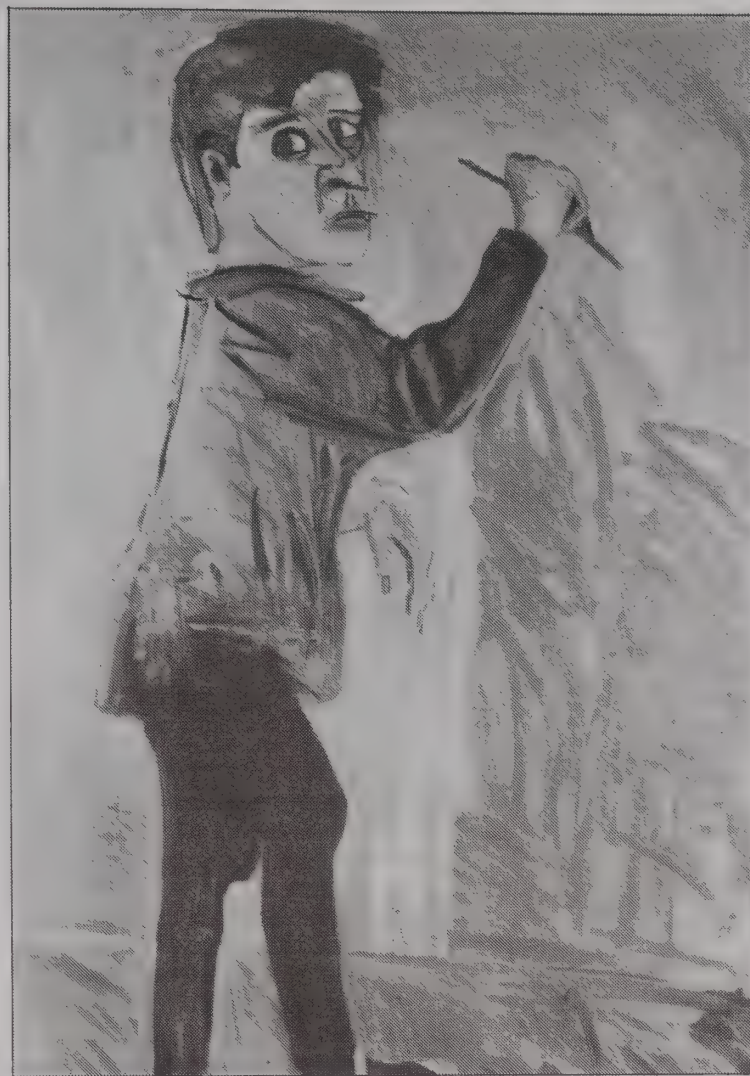
Tilbury


Thamesway Homes Limited


Bellway Homes Limited

ART

Lucy Jones: love affair with paint



Lucy Jones by Lucy Jones: "just a convenient subject."

to take an MA at the Royal College of Art, followed by a two-year scholarship at the British School in Rome. During these years she began gradually to introduce colour into her work and, it seems, to establish firmly her direction as a painter.

Her paintings, with their contrasting, vivid colours and very obvious brush strokes, may appear at first to have been casually put together. But it soon

becomes obvious that a great deal of care and understanding has gone into their construction.

She usually paints open spaces within the city, particularly Waterloo Bridge as seen from the Embankment. The attraction is in the space the river makes, the broadness and the different perspectives. It is also, incidentally, reasonably accessible.

In reality her subject is just a

stimulus for her true love – paint. And it is this purist tradition which she follows. On a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which recently bought four of her works, she admired the "pure aesthetics" of Jackson Pollock.

Since Rome, Lucy has also painted a number of pictures of herself. She insists that she just happens to be a convenient subject. However she does admit that it is maybe "a beginning of an acceptance of one's self" and that the paintings seem less sad than they used to be.

Beyond her almost daily visits to the studio she has taken various teaching jobs in the five or so years since leaving college herself. She currently spends a day a week at Chelsea School of Art where she enjoys both the teaching and the students. She also tries to remain aware of not having enjoyed her own time as an undergraduate.

In 1986 she had a one-day exhibition at Angela Flowers Gallery. While she has shown in many other places she has since developed a relationship with the gallery which should prove fruitful for them both. Her last one-woman show there sold out.

There are signs now that her work is reaching a new level of maturity. "The one thing I have complete control of is this space," she said of her canvas. "As I've become more confident in myself, my work's become less rigid."

Adam Reynolds

Lucy Jones at Drumcroon Education Art Centre, 2 Parsons Walk, Wigan, tel: (0942) 321840. 5 March – 7 April, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Ramped access.

TV

If I could give awards, this month's recipient would be Peter White. Firstly, in *Jim'll Fix It* (BBC1, 20 Jan) he gave a



remarkable demonstration of gentle, but effective, disability awareness to nine-year-old Grace Ellson. The pitfalls that could have accompanied answering Grace's enquiry about what it's like to be disabled! But a sensitive approach by the programme, coupled with Peter's laid back style and Grace's intelligence, avoided any mishap.

As if this were not deserving enough, Peter also took on Ken Young, The Spastics Society's chief executive on *Link* (ITV, 28 Jan). "Took on", because at one stage the interviewee actually interviewed Peter! Impossible to say who won, but stirring television all the same.

Runners up this month would be Jane Campbell, Elspeth Morrison and Anne Karpf for their concerted attack on charity fundraising (*Network* BBC1, 23 Jan). Shame though that the BBC's official line was given first and last bite of the cherry, and that the programme went out as late and unpublished as it did. The arguments against current practice in telethons etc deserve a larger audience.

In its equal opportunities drive, the BBC is making every effort to include disabled people in mainstream programmes. But quantity isn't quality. *Wogan* (BBC1) has had two disabled people since my last column: Elizabeth Quinn (24 Jan) and Katrina Hocking (7 Feb). Both highly motivated, but very different women. Yet Terry's line of appreciation in both cases was exactly the same – the old inspirational "overcoming disability" bit.

Thankfully, his saccharine awe was counterbalanced by the personalities of his interviewees. It would be unfortunate if, for disabled people to qualify as guests on *Wogan*, they have to be superheroes. I get the feeling that some of us go so far in emphasising the positive simply because we initially accept the negative image of disability. I wouldn't want TV to assist this process.

Daytime Live is also playing its part in equal opportunities, but inconsistently. Two days after a very good, matter-of-fact item on disabled people sailing (BBC1, 6 Feb), came a whole 55 minute programme devoted to the MacDonaldis "Child of Achievement" awards (BBC1, 8 Feb). Although an improvement on the BBC's own "Children of Courage", it still did not talk enough to the children themselves. I think the children deserve another award for surviving Margaret Thatcher's OTT speech!

Chris Davies

Watch out for *Boom!* (5pm, C4, Wednesdays), a new magazine programme specially commissioned for children with special needs.

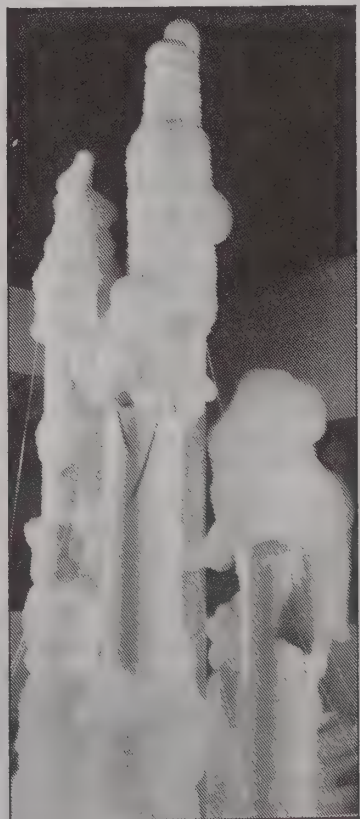
Look out for...

The Common Ground Dance Theatre's "sign-dance-theatre" piece *Partraps*, is touring theatres in Glamorgan and Wales this month. Tel: 01-630 1411.

The Royal Opera House in London has extra wheelchair spaces for performances of the operas *Don Pasquale* on 6 and 8 March, and *Elektra* on 20 March. Tel: 01-240 1200.

More than Meets the Eye is a touch exhibition by visually impaired artists and sculptors, at the accessible Havant Arts Centre, Havant, Hampshire until 3 March. Tel: (0705) 828392.

Alan Hendry has kindly donated some of the proceeds from his book *Someone to Care For to Disability Now*. It is about his adopted daughter, Lindsay Gladwin, who was born with a tumour on her spine and who wrote poetry and won several prizes for fundraising. Over 2,000 copies have already been sold. Copies from "Miltara", Woodrow Lane, Aslacton, Norwich, NR15 2JE, tel: (037-977) 731. £2.50 inc p&sp.



Bubble Machine by David Medalla, part of *The Other Story*, an exhibition by Asian, African and caribbean artists who live in Britain. Exhibits include mobiles which you can move by rearranging magnets. At the Hayward Gallery, London, until 4 February.

THEATRE

The Diviners

When an ex-preacher, C.C. Showers, arrives at a small American town in the Depression of the 1930s, he is the focus of speculation. The teenage girls see him as a future husband while the town's most religious person, Norma Henshaw, looks forward to a revival of "saving, singing and baptising".

He is more interested in his friendship with Buddy Layman, a boy with a gift for finding water and predicting the weather, but who has a childlike understanding and calls himself "dumber 'n' dirt".

Everyone treats Buddy in a different way. His father is affectionate but takes little care with his children ("I let 'em grow like weeds – you ever seen a weed that ain't healthy?"). Mrs Henshaw, on the other hand, sees him as a case to be cured.

Although Buddy can find water, he will not touch it and has never washed. Showers discovers this is because of his mother's death by drowning when Buddy

was a child.

But he has to try to cure Buddy after a bad case of ringworm sets in. What happens shows that he is not as infallible as some of the townspeople think.

The seats at the tiny Man in the Moon theatre are almost on the stage. This makes *The Diviners* an intense experience, although it is relieved by humour, as when the cafe proprietor forces C.C. Showers to say grace for a doughnut before Buddy's father can eat it.

Owen Scott gives a sensitive portrait of the preacher who is trying to shake off his previous life and deal with the way other people see him.

Nicholas Cannon is excellent as Buddy, swinging between extremes of gripping fear which no-one else can understand, to playful attempts at winning sympathy by feigning illness.

The play puts together people who, you feel, can never really understand each other but manage to get along with what they know.

Rebecca Reynolds

The Diviners is on during March and April at the Man in the Moon Theatre, 392 Kings Road, Chelsea, London, tel: 01 351 2876. £4, £5. Wheelchair users should give advance notice.

Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

Facing the challenge of ageing



Can life begin at 50? A very short time ago job prospects for anyone over about 45 were depressing to say the least. But the situation is changing.

With the shortage of young people, mature applicants are suddenly seen as reliable, experienced and desirable. Also the number of people over 80 will rise rapidly during the next 10 years, so those of us in our 50s and 60s will increasingly be viewed as spritely and eminently useful!

But what about those middle-aged people with disabilities? Are there special problems at this stage of life? These two letters indicate some of the anxieties and very real concerns that many men and women experience in their middle years.

"For some time I have been concerned about the effects of getting older and am wondering if there is anything I can do to keep my independence.

I have cerebral palsy and am now in my early 50s. My balance is not as good as it was and every time I fall it seems to take longer to get over the effects.

I also wonder whether the menopause creates more problems for women with disabilities or if there are

special complications if one wants to consider hormone replacement therapy? I would be glad of your advice."

"I am finding it difficult to face the future now that I am getting older. I am in my late 50s and have a disability. It has not been too much of a problem until recently. But I live on my own and everything is getting more difficult to cope with as I am much slower than I was.

Sometimes I wonder what I have achieved in life and the prospect of another 20 years, getting more and more dependant, seems very daunting. Any ideas?"

Most people slow up as they get older and find that they cannot do the things they used to do, either as well or at all. It is obviously of greater concern to those who have just managed to lived independently and are wondering how they will cope in the future.

Some action can certainly be taken in the middle years. How about a thorough physical check-up if you haven't had one recently? You could get advice and treatment from a physiotherapist who specialises in working with people with a particular disability or older

people. Occupational therapists can also help with suggestions for managing personal care and daily living.

Perhaps a piece of equipment or gadget could take the strain out of day-to-day tasks? Ask your doctor, health visitor or social worker and, if possible, visit one of the Disabled Living Centres where you can try out a range of aids and equipment and get professional advice. The Disabled Living Centres Council will give you details of the centre nearest to you and the Disabled Living Foundation has information sheets on a wide variety of services and equipment.

It would be a good idea to find out now what type of help is available, even if you don't need it at present. How do you get a home help, meals-on-wheels, a volunteer to help with shopping or small jobs in the home?

Your social services department, Citizen's Advice Bureau or Age Concern group should be able to tell you about services available locally. Asking questions now could alert the social services department to future demand and influence its forward planning.

Could you let a room to a student or someone who would be around in case of emergency or to do odd jobs that you can't deal with so easily?

As for feeling somewhat useless and depressed about the future, many men and women face similar mid-life crises, even if they appear to others to be 'high achievers'. These low times can, however, be particularly hard to live through if your opportunities have always been restricted and you feel that you have never been given a chance to prove yourself. Perhaps now is the time to make a start.

I am planning to focus on the menopause in a couple of months time - anyone who wants to share their experiences can write to me in confidence, c/o DN, address on page 3.

With the implementation of the Griffiths' report on community care, there are likely to be many more opportunities to become involved with others and middle-aged men and women with increasingly be in demand in this and other fields. For instance, I recently heard of a branch of a well-known supermarket chain which now only employs the over-50s.

So look out for local developments, both to help you retain your independence and to meet and help others.

Lastly, a new directory for older people is reviewed on page 14. It is full of practical ideas and suggestions for keeping well and active. Although written for the general population, the authors recognise that disabilities develop and increase with the years and the range of problems and needs they cover is very wide.

Disabled Living Foundation and the Disabled Living Centres Council, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 01-266 2059.

Age Concern - details of your nearest group should be in the telephone directory or contact Age Concern England, tel: 01-640 5431.

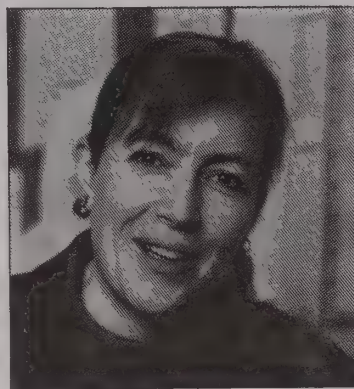
PROFILE

Frances Hasler

"We are receiving an award for our employment work", was written on the bulletin board of London's Islington Disablement Association (IDA) last month. "The mayor and photographers will be here. So...let's get tidy! Don't walk past a mess...clean it up! Many thanks, Frances."

IDA has a reputation for employing people with disabilities (currently, seven disabled people, two able-bodied, two vacancies) and for seeing them move on to "higher things".

Now its director, Frances Hasler, is herself moving on. In mid-March she takes over as director of GLAD (Greater London Association for Disabled People), which has a



ISABEL LILLY

membership of 28 London borough associations and 37 voluntary organisations.

Frances, 35, takes with her wide experience in the disability field plus a belief in what she calls "participation management". But she looks firmly in control and she knows what she wants.

Her most important task at GLAD, she says, will be steering through the decision to become an organisation "of" disabled people, though she wouldn't want to exclude people without a disability.

"I'm concerned that we don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Many people have made a contribution to GLAD, and that must be valued. But disabled people must know that they control the organisation that speaks for them."

Frances' passion for the democratic rights of disabled people stems, appropriately, from 1981, the International Year of Disabled People. She

was then at the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) as its first welfare officer. (Her interest in spinal injury began when she got to know a disabled student at Sussex University.)

She felt strongly enough to join the steering group of the embryo British Council of Disabled People. But, though she has epilepsy, she did not identify with disabled people.

Then, through BCODP, she met Allan Sutherland and read his autobiography *Disabled We Stand*. "It was one of those times when a light bulb seems to switch on overhead. Someone had written down how I felt. The connection was made."

Frances launched some exciting services at SIA: the first women's conference organised by women ("We had to shut out the chaps and the able-bodied professionals!"); a care attendant agency geared to the needs of users; and the first meetings of spinal unit social workers which led to a travel fund for relatives.

Since 1985 she has been at IDA, campaigning and developing services with local disabled people. Her latest coup is a three-year advocacy scheme mainly for disabled school leavers, funded with £60,000 from Charity Projects.

At GLAD Frances will have wider opportunities to use her strengths: lobbying and developing policy. She mentioned the White Paper on Community Care, benefits, self-advocacy, building stronger links with the disability arts movement.

It is "dead easy", she claims, to employ disabled people if one looks at the facilities they need and makes a good case to the Disablement Advisory Service. "You must start from the premise that all jobs can be done by disabled people."

It is this policy at IDA which won formal appreciation from the charity Opportunities for the Disabled. Hon. chairman, Sam Gallop, sees Frances as a "catalyst", making things happen for disabled people.

Stephen Bradshaw, director of SIA, says: "She will do a marvellous job for GLAD. Everyone from the disability movement will give her support."

Mary Wilkinson

THE DISCREET CONVERSION

FAMILY CAPACITY

EXHIBITING 1990
See you there

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| NAIDEX GLASGOW | 28-29-30 MARCH |
| NAIDEX BIRMINGHAM | 9-10-11 MAY |
| CARE 90 DUBLIN | 22-23-24 MAY |
| NICD BELFAST | 28-29 JUNE |
| NAIDEX LONDON | 17-18-19 OCTOBER |

HIRE - Short and Long Term
SECONDHAND vehicles from £3,000

Mk 1 PRAIRIE Conversions from £9,000

Mk 2 PRAIRIE Conversions from £16,963

NEW FURNITURE - Highly functional yet discreet. Quite simply provides the answer to comfortable living for wheelchair users.

BROTHERWOOD

BROTHERWOOD AUTOMOBILITY LTD.
YETMINSTER DORSET DT9 6LH
Telephone: (0935) 872603

PENROSE BURDEN - NORTH CORNWALL SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY COTTAGES DESIGNED FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Eight traditional stone cottages (sleeping 2-6) recently converted with wheelchair users in mind. Each has private garden with parking on tarmac. Level access throughout. Wood-burning stoves (free logs) and free night-stores. Linen provided. Dogs accepted. Colour TVs. Home made meals on arrival each evening. Superb rural area with outstanding views from low level windows. Being in wheelchair myself all aspects have been carefully considered - we aim to provide a really RELAXED HOLIDAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. Easy distance from best beaches. One mile private fishing with wheelchair platforms. Open all year. Car essential. Early enquiry advised - many return bookings. Easter vacancies available. 1990 rates from £100-£325 (VAT included). Large colour brochure (30p stamp appreciated) from: R. & N. Hall, Penrose Burden, St. Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Tel: Bodmin (0208) 850277 & 850617



New 200s: quiet power

John Byworth reports

Star of the Scottish Motor Show last December, and of many motoring columns since, was the new Rover 200 range.

Replacing the popular 213/216 series, the new car looks very similar, with a front like the Montego and a back in line with other modern hatchbacks.

But while it looks ordinary, the finish, inside and out, is a cut above the rest.

The seats are harder than one would expect and have small mouldings either side which may make it difficult for some people to slide in and out. But once in position, the firm seat is a real advantage for long distance driving. Not only is it multi-positional, but there is also lumbar support and the steering wheel is height adjustable.

Friends of mine who use adapted vehicles say an adjustable steering wheel is particularly good for parking: by lowering it you can get maximum leverage.

Most of the controls are on two stalks from the steering wheel or are press switches. The electric



Merle Davies in the Back Tech Car Seat.

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY

It needed less effort to turn the steering wheel, but power steering (£300 extra) could well be a real investment.

My overall impression was of quiet power. After all this is what makes a Rover.

The trouble is that at £12,000 for the only automatic version, the 216 GSi is well beyond the

reach of most disabled drivers.

It will not be available on Motability until mid-1990.

I do hope Rover will consider the adapted vehicle market lucrative enough to provide a base standard model fitted with an automatic gear box in the same way as the Ford Escort and Astra have done so successfully.

As an investment this Rover will give a good return. It will hold its resale value slightly longer than the previous model and will, I am sure, be a sought after second-hand car in the 1990s.

The Rover 216 GSi automatic costs £11,709 plus car tax, delivery and number plates. Contact Rover Cars, Canley Road, Canley, Coventry CV5 6QX, tel: (0203) 670111.

The Back Tech Car Seat

Merle Davies reports

The Bay Jacobsen Back Tech seat, £29.50 plus £2.50 P&P, is designed for drivers with back problems. It is said to "protect your back and seat and reduce the stiffness that arises from long car journeys."

The seat is covered in dark blue non-shrink cotton and has elastic straps which fit over the car seat. There are two layers of ducted foam inside which respond to body movement, gently massaging the bottom and back.

The seat's extra height gives a better view of the road in all directions, and makes it easier to

get out of the car. But you should adjust the mirrors and car seat to fit the new height, and there may not be so much space in front of the steering wheel.

It is pleasant to sit on. The filling responds to temperature, giving extra warmth in winter and coolness in warm weather.

I think it would be a help to disabled drivers who feel they need extra support, stability and warmth.

Bay Jacobsen (UK) Ltd., Freepost 644, Slough, SL1 6BT. The seat is available on trial for 28 days.

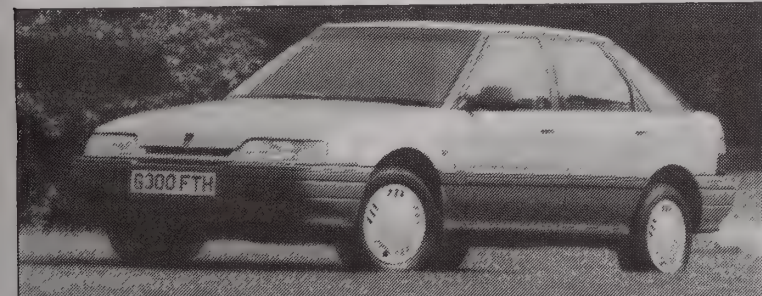
Scotland's Growing Up.



A magazine about children. A magazine about Scotland. a magazine about much, much more. From women's magazines to youth homelessness, from life on YTS to sexual abuse, we're dealing with it. Seriously. Imaginatively. In a way no one else does. And we don't even live in London. Amazing, eh?

Scottish Child

For a **FREE COPY** and subscription details phone 031-552 0472 (24 hours), and leave us your name and address. We doubt you'll be disappointed.



"Lively": the Rover 216 GSi.

sun roof switch is on the dashboard, a bonus for the older driver or someone who finds lifting their arms difficult.

Like the earlier model, the new Rover has levers inside for opening the boot and the petrol filler cap.

The extra height in the back allows my standard NHS wheelchair to sit there without folded handles once the parcel shelf is removed. In my previous Rover, the chair had to be collapsed.

The 60/30 back seat folding allows powered chairs to be stored comfortably too and still take a third passenger.

On the road the car comes into its own with a 16 valve, 1600cc engine, equivalent in power to most 2 litres, fitted to what is in effect a very small body.

The performance is lively and the disc brakes all round ensure quick stopping, though there is a tendency to skid.

Anti-locking brakes are an extra £895, which takes them out of the reach of most motorists. Why were they not fitted as standard, as on the new Cavalier?

The engine torque is noticeably improved and although my test car did not have an automatic gear box, this extra power must produce a better version than the previous Rover 216.

THE NEATER EATER

ENABLES PEOPLE WITH TREMOR, ATAXIA OR ATHETOID MOVEMENT TO FEED THEMSELVES

- The Neater Eater is not a powered machine. The user controls the spoon and a damping device on the arm filters out any jerky movements enabling the spoon to be moved smoothly from plate to mouth. Thus the user can eat under their own control and at their own pace.

- The Neater Eater has been used by people suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Parkinson's Disease, head injuries and other neurological conditions that cause tremor.

- Trials with a range of people suffering from these conditions have shown that people previously unable to feed themselves are able to do so with the Neater Eater.



For a **FREE TRIAL** and/or more information about the Neater Eater, please fill in this form and send to **Michaelis Engineering, 68 Argyle Road, Southampton SO2 0BQ, England (Tel: 0703 639771)**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Disability of user(s) _____

DN3

HELP

Telethon 90 will take over the ITV Network for 27 hours of fundraising over the Spring Bank Holiday. We want to involve everyone in the community in raising money to help local projects. Interested? How you raise money is up to you, but the more unusual the more likely it is to end up on film. We can offer backup—posters, leaflets, T-shirts etc. Contact the Telethon

office at your local television company.

The Percy Bilton Charity wants to donate professional standard cycling equipment to real enthusiasts only. Cycling clubs for disabled people or disabled riders should write to: Mrs J Beasley, Percy Bilton Charity, Bilton House, Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2TL.

The Youth Employment and Training Resource Unit and Birmingham Disability Rights Group are researching a report

on young disabled people and the Youth Training Scheme. If you can contribute contact: YETRU, Sarah or Palbinder, 7 Frederick Street, Hockley, Birmingham B1 3HE, tel: 021-236 8620. All information treated confidentially.

The Bryn y Neuadd Advice and Advocacy Project is recruiting volunteers to become advocates for people with learning difficulties in Bryn y Neuadd Hospital, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd. Contact Sian or Bill tel: (0248) 681647.

Live Music Now, a performing scheme for young professional musicians, will be holding auditions in March and would welcome applications from disabled musicians. Contact 15 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, tel: 01-828 7073.

School nurses in special schools need **health promotion material**, posters, leaflets, videos etc, on all aspects of health care for young disabled people. Contact: Judith Groom, Ridgeway School, Hill Rise, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7EB.

INFO

Counselling and Psychotherapy Resources Directory is a revised directory of counsellors and psychotherapists in England and Wales, published by the British Association for Counselling. £13.80 inc p&p from BAC, 37a Sheep Street, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3BX.

A list of the **Multiple Sclerosis Society's** videos, cassettes and publications, including *MS Resource Booklet* and *Be Continent Be Confident* plus many more, is available from the MS Society, 25 Effie Road, London SW6 1EE, tel: 01-736 6267.

Making Our Voice Heard is a report of a one-day seminar by those who use services for people with learning difficulties, physical disabilities or long-term mental health problems. Useful discussion document for service users. £2.75, Department D/KFP, Bailey Distribution Ltd, Warner House, Bowes Well Gardens, West Bay Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6PH. Make cheques/PO's payable to Bailey Distribution Ltd.

A **Shopmobility** scheme has been launched in Leicester. Five manual and two powered chairs plus one scooter are available for loan from 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday. To book call (0533) 549922 ext 6694.

Footwear for Cold Feet, £1.20 inc p&p and **Footwear for Odd-Sized Feet**, 80p inc p&p, are available from the Disabled Living Foundation's Clothing and Footwear Advisory Service, 380/384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 01-289 6111.

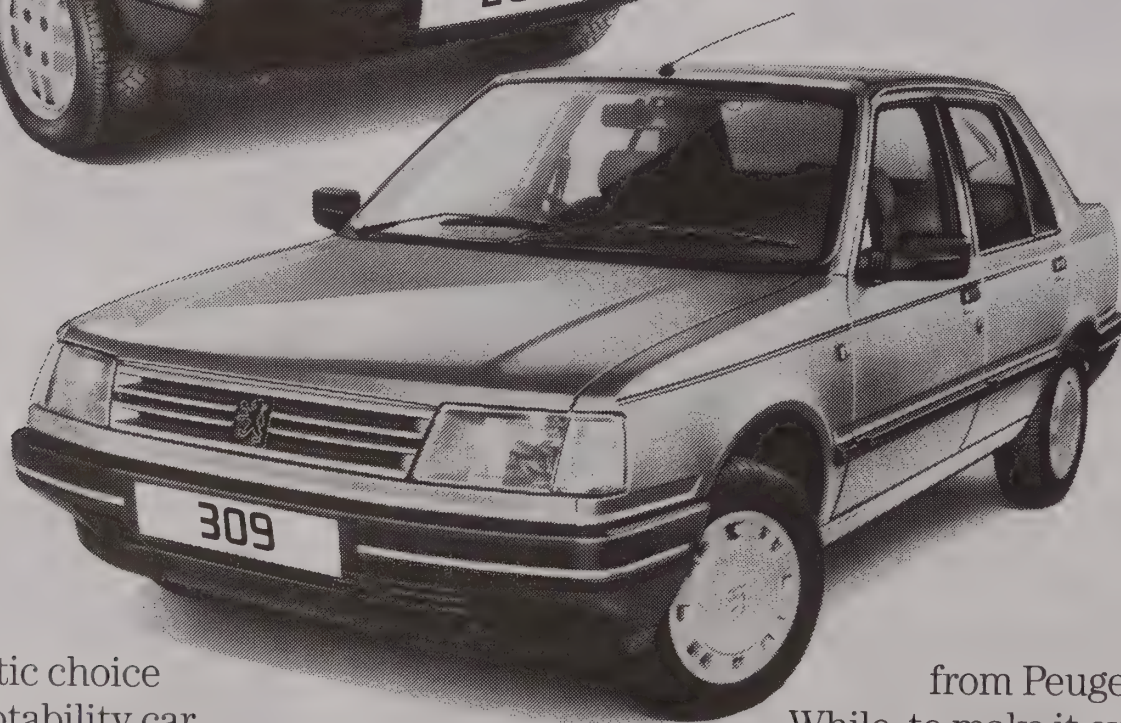
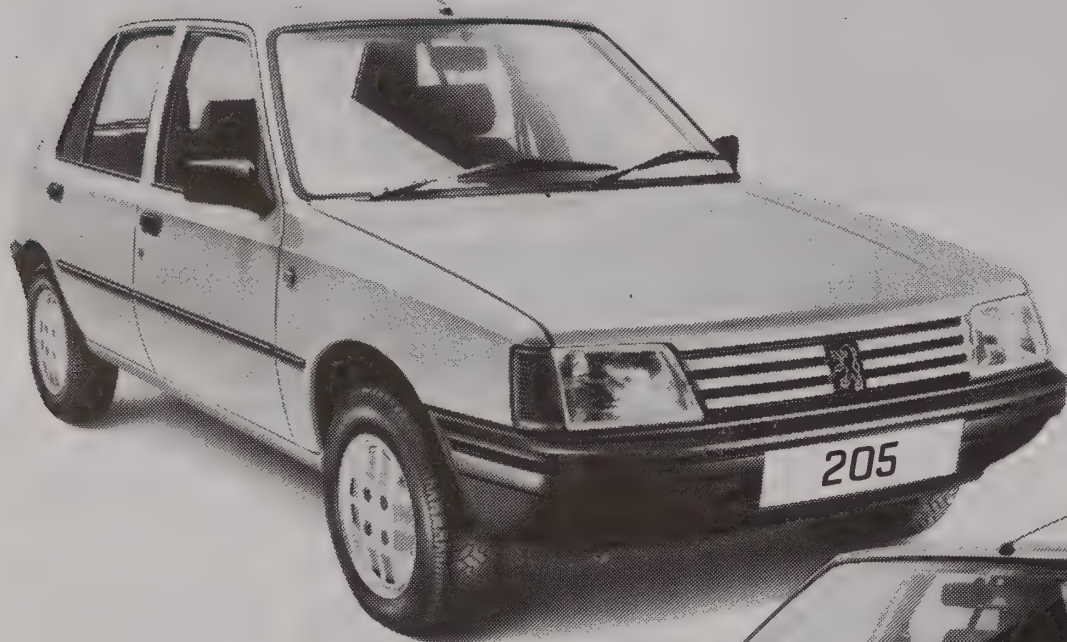
Channel Four wants to recruit more disabled people in all departments including publicity, sales, engineering and personnel. Apply to Suzanne Jackson, C4, 60 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2AX, tel: 01-631 4444.

Hospital Patients' Handbook, a guide to benefits for hospital in-patients, out-patients and advisers. £3.30 postfree or £1.80 postfree to claimants, from Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2H 8NJ, tel: 01-240 0806.

Good Practice in the use of Battery Powered Vehicles, Industrial Trucks and Specialised Equipment covers the purchase, maintenance and running of all types of electric vehicle. £41.50 inc p&p, from the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, 8 Leicester Street, London WC2H 7BN, tel: 01-437 0678.

Access Guide: Facilities for Disabled People in Hampshire Arts Venues, £5 plus p&p (reduced rate for disabled people) from Artlink South, 143 Kingston Rd, Portsmouth PO2 7EB, tel: (0705) 828392. Taped guide and large print format also available.

THE AUTOMATIC CHOICE



Peugeot is the automatic choice for your Mobility or Motability car.

However, your choice is not limited to the automatic Peugeot 205 or the automatic Peugeot 309.

Your choice is from all of the Peugeot range of cars.

From five doors that provide easy access for both driver and equipment, to the light precise controls and reliability that make driving so much more pleasurable.

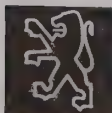
Combined of course with the economy and value you expect

from Peugeot. While, to make it even easier for you to get behind the wheel, our Mobility and Motability schemes offer you four alternative methods of acquiring your new Peugeot either through ownership or hire.

There are also substantial discounts available on specified models, for Registered Disabled drivers.

So, to find out exactly why Peugeot is your automatic choice contact your local Peugeot Dealer today.

AUTOMATIC



FLEET



PEUGEOT

THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

WHAT'S ON

Seminar - Care in the Community, 9 March at Victoria Hall, Keighley. Speakers include Nicholas Scott. Application forms from Keith Bell, Information and Advice Officer, Temple Row Centre, Temple Row, Keighley BD21 2AH, tel: (0535) 606700.

Disability in the Developing World. 12-16 March. Non residential course in London. More details: M Greenhalgh, IDEA, William House, 101 Eden Vale, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3QF, tel: (0373) 827635.

Wheelchair Exhibition. 15 March, 12-7pm. Free. The Frank Sorrell Centre, Prince Albert Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9HR, tel: (0705) 737174.

Care Exhibition 90, 21-22 March at Pontins, Ainsdale, Southport. Equipment and services for disabled and elderly people. Contact John Hill, Exhibition Organiser, Careplan Consultants Ltd, 2a Union Street, Southport, Merseyside PR8 0QE, tel: (0704) 500015.

Conference on Community Care for people with learning difficulties. 22-23 March, organised by Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority. Details: Liz Khabaza, MMRU Building, Wardalls Grove, Avonley Road, London SE14 5ER, tel: 01-639 2050 ext 279.

Conference - Cutting Through the Clothing Conundrum, to discuss clothing worn by people in long-stay NHS hospitals. 23 March 9.30-4.15. at Kensington Town Hall SW8. £200 (£50 for voluntary organisations). Details: Jane Morrison, Conference Organiser, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 14 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ED, tel: 01-242 1941 ext 252.

Sculpture Course, 25-31 March at The Stackpole Trust Centre in Dyfed. No previous experience necessary. £55 inc. board. Contact Bob & Linda Tuckey, The Stackpole Centre, Stackpole, Pembroke, Dyfed SA71 5DG, tel: (064681) 425.

Benefit Gig in support of the Campaign for Accessible Transport. 28 March, 8-10.30pm at the Red Rose, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. £3 (£1 unwaged). Details: Alan Desborough on 01-281 0848.

Castle Priory
The National Curriculum - practical implications of the Education Reform Act for pupils with special needs in special and mainstream schools. 21-23 March. £145 including tuition and accommodation.
Child Abuse and Special Needs - details on request. 4-6 April.
Blissymbolics Communication System - an introductory course relating to children or adults with severe communication disorders. 17-21 April. £295 including tuition and accommodation.
Non-residence charges from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0HE (enclose SAE please), tel: (0491) 37551.

Care Store Mail Order Catalogue of special aids and tools for disabled and elderly people. Free from Care Store, 14 Wellfield Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2PJ, tel: (0303) 220477.

The Playtrac Handbook, a practical guide written by Save the Children Fund's staff, deals with setting up and running play and leisure projects for people with mental handicaps. Send £5 cheques payable to Save the Children to Playtrac, c/o Harperbury Hospital, Harper Lane, Radlet, Herts WD7 9HQ.

Wheels Under You for young or recently disabled people learning to drive. £1 inc p&p from The Mobility Information Service, National Mobility Centre, Unit 2a Atcham Estate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4UG, tel: (074375) 889.

Free leisure pass for people with special needs in Cardiff. From Leisure and Amenities Department, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4EP, tel: (0222) 751235.

1990 Ratcliff Mobility Award for significant contributions in the fields of mobility equipment, services or public awareness. Nomination forms from Mrs Doreen Shotton, Ratcliff Tail Lifts Ltd, Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1ET, tel: (0707) 325571.

OwnBase, a non-profit, bi-monthly Newsletter for home-based workers. Free copy from Brian Patterson, OwnBase, 9 Salisbury Road, Andover, Hants SP10 2JJ.

Wellington Country Park, winter fishing for disabled

INFO

anglers. Details from Chris Holby, The Wellington Office, Stratfield Saye, Reading RG7 2BT, tel: (0734) 326444.

Fixing Supplement for Grab Rails, Shower Seats and Support Aids. A 16-page technical brochure from, Southern Sanitary Specialists Ltd, Cerdic House, West Portway, Andover, Hants SP10 3LF, tel: (0264) 24131.

Building On Ability, a Department of Employment guide for training people with disabilities. Copies from Room W403, Training Agency, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ.

Legal Arrangements for Managing Financial Affairs a fact sheet for older people. SAE to the Information Department, Age Concern, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL.

Into Work, a new guide to help disabled jobseekers find work, published by RADAR and I CAN. SAE (24p A5 size) to Publications Department, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

Living with Parkinson's Disease and Incontinence are two new Family Doctor Publications from the British Medical Association. £1.40 each inc p&p from Jane Youens, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, tel: 01-387 4499.

Amstrad PCW Series Helpline for Disabled People. For

further details and free information sheet send SAE (9"x4") to David Axford, 18 Sunbrow, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2QP, tel: (0428) 56438.

Vision Aid provides help and services to blind and partially-sighted children, including 24-hour telephone advice line, pre-school and family support, specialised educational aids and equipment plus a range of publications. Contact Vision Aid, Guy Salmon House, 22a Chorley New Rd, Bolton BL1 4AP, tel: (0204) 31882/42397.

Home therapy a work book, video and audio cassette package designed to help people overcome psychological problems and to learn to be their own therapist. For more information send £1.00 (refundable on purchase of package) to Home Therapy, PO Box No. 915, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5YE.

Guide to pubs and restaurants in Bromley. Free from the Bromley Association for People with Handicaps, Lewis House, 30 Beckenham Road, Beckenham BR3 4LS, tel: 01-663 3345.

Community Training is a charity providing a training and consultancy service to people with disabilities, professionals and families. More information: Community Training Ltd, 72 Staines Square, Dunstable, Beds LU6 3JQ, tel: (0582) 604693.

Dr Adrian V Stokes, chairman of RADAR's Executive Committee, has been appointed to the Social Security Advisory Committee. Elliot Paterson has been elected chairman of the Scottish Council on Disability.

WARDS

MOBILITY

SERVICES

Comfort and independent mobility at home

FREE BROCHURE

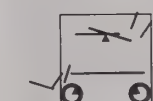
For a FREE BROCHURE on our Homecare Products please complete and return the slip below to:

WARDS FREEPOST, Ware Works, Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 9BR

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

NAME ADDRESS TEL

DN3



CHAIRPOWER PRODUCTS

THE SQUIRREL

THE TRUE INDOOR/OUTDOOR POWERCHAIR



- ▲ The Squirrel can turn in its own length,
- ▲ Climb a 1 in 4 hill,
- ▲ Turn safely on the steepest incline,
- ▲ Surge through gravel 2" deep.

With variable power, acceleration, control sensitivity, seat position and fabric - all for personal choice - the Squirrel is still unmatched at the price anywhere in the world.

Chairpower Products PLC, Malcolm House, 583 Moseley Road, Birmingham B12 9BL
 telephone 021-442-4220, telefax 021-442-4231



LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

The BBC Comedy Department is working on a new Situation Comedy pilot and is looking for someone to play the lead character who is a paraplegic. He is a bright, personable young man of 25/26 from the South of England. He became disabled after a motorbike accident, and has a T10 lesion.

It is essential that applicants have experience of a disability, though this need not be paraplegia. Someone with acting experience would be preferred, though this may not necessarily be essential.

If you think you may be suitable for consideration for this part, would you please apply in writing to the address below, before 23rd March 1990, enclosing a c.v., small photograph, and details of your disability.

"Two Wheels on My Waggon", C/o Room 3052, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

£14,232 – £15,081

A 3 year Joint Funded post reporting to the Joint Planning Group, which promises to be both challenging and rewarding. It will be your responsibility to ensure it's success.

You will establish and develop a special needs housing "clearing house" system, support local Access Groups, develop user involvement and improve local service co-ordination. Your enthusiastic approach and excellent communication skills at all levels will be essential.

Highly motivated, you should have considerable awareness and experience of disability and related issues. A knowledge of Local Authority, Health Authority and voluntary services is essential as is a firm philosophical and practical commitment to choice consultation and participation for people with disabilities.

So if you want to take the lead in a major initiative . . . then contact Geoff King, Area Adviser, Physical and Sensory Handicap on Torquay (0803) 217816. Closing date for applications will be 23rd March 1990, interviews will be held on Friday 20th April 1990. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to prepare a short presentation for interview.

Applications from people with disabilities are strongly encouraged.

Devon
COUNTY COUNCIL

Devon is an equal opportunities employer.



DISABILITY EQUALITY Disability Access Adviser

PO1/2, £15,570-£17,655 inclusive

Hounslow is committed to making equality of opportunity a reality for all people with disabilities who live, work or visit the Borough. The following vacancy has arisen for which **ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE WILL BE CONSIDERED**.

This post based in Hounslow's busy Planning Department requires someone who will increase general disability awareness, provide practical and detailed advice to professional planners and assist in removing the barriers, physical and attitudinal, that prevent normal easy access to people with different disabilities. You will also advise the Council's architects and engineers.

You will have:

- direct experience of physical and/or sensory impairment
- an understanding of how to initiate access projects
- knowledge of statutory obligations in relation to access to public buildings
- an ability to identify access needs in planning applications
- an ability to ensure that senior managers are fully aware of the needs, rights and wishes of people with disabilities
- the skills to develop Council-wide policies to ensure accessible and user-friendly buildings and street environments.

In return we offer:

- a working environment committed to the practical realisation of equal opportunities
- excellent facilities in a modern Civic Centre
- flexible working hours
- car user allowance, car loan facilities and child care allowance.

For details telephone 01-862 5962 quoting ref: PL/07/09. Director of Planning, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN. Closing date 16 March 1990.

Job Sharers welcome



Hounslow
An Equal Opportunity Employer

PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE

has a vacancy for a full time woman advice worker. Applicants must be fluent in two of the following languages: Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, or Gujarati.

Applicants must be willing to specialise in one or two of the following areas of work: Immigration, housing, welfare benefits or employment. Training will be given.

For job description and application form telephone 01-855 9817 or write to Plumstead Community Law Centre Ltd, 105 Plumstead High St., London SE18 1SB. Closing date for completed applications is 16.3.90.

PCLC is an equal opportunities employer. Job sharers and p/t workers welcome. The Law Centre is accessible to wheelchair users.

Section (7)(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1976 applies.

Deadlines for April issue: booking and camera ready artwork/copy by 14 March.

WHAT'S ON

OPEN DAY, Lord Mayor Treloar College, for professionals on Thursday 26 April. This is your opportunity to see the pioneering work for young children in function, language and movement education as well as the latest developments for 16+ students in our Traill Centre. Cost £5 inc. lunch. To obtain further details send SAE or to book a place send name, designation and address together with £5 fee to: The Headmaster, Lord Mayor Treloar College, Upper School, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4EN.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – DISABLEMENT SERVICES

RADAR is the principal umbrella organisation concerned with disability and rehabilitation. It was set up 12 years ago by the amalgamation of two existing organisations and seeks to improve the status of disabled people and to ensure their integration into society. The Association now seeks to appoint an Assistant Director – Disablement Services to succeed the present post holder who is taking over as Director on 1 April 1990.

RADAR has a continuing programme in many areas. These include employment, education, transport and housing; it has a comprehensive advice service for its 500 member associations and others, and is implementing plans to develop further its regional structure.

The successful candidate will have considerable experience of disability issues and have the ability to lead and enthuse a hard working and innovative team. Disabled people are particularly invited to apply.

Salary: £16,380–£19,947 pa including NJC London Weighting Allowance.

Further details available from: **The Office Manager, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Tel: (01) 637 5400 ext 354.**

Closing date for completed application forms: 23 March 1990.

RADAR is an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people.

Social Services Information Officer

£9,879 – £10,935

Section 9 of the Disabled Persons Act requires us to appoint an Information Officer to set up and maintain a computerised data base of all information and services to meet the needs of disabled people.

Experience of information collation/dis-semination and innovation to promote the rights of disabled people are essential.

For further information Tel: Mike Marriet 01-854 0222.

Directorate of Social Services, London Borough of Greenwich, Personnel Section, Nelson House, 50 Wellington Street, Woolwich, London, SE18 6PY. Tel: 01-854 8888 Ext. 3073 or 01-854 3138 for answering service outside office hours.

Closing date: 9th March 1990.

Working for equal opportunities



TOWER HAMLETS HEALTH AUTHORITY COMMUNITY AND PRIORITY SERVICES COUNSELLOR FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES £13,542 – £15,574 per annum inclusive 3 Year Fixed Term Contract

Tower Hamlets Health Authority has been given 3 years' funding to develop a new and exciting project to provide counselling to people with disabilities.

We are seeking a counsellor to set up and run this service.

You should have an excellent understanding of the issues facing people with disabilities, a B.A.C. or equivalent recognised counselling qualification, at least 2 years' counselling experience, excellent administrative skills and be self-motivated.

You will have an understanding of the challenges for services that are presented by an inner city environment.

Applications are welcome from people wishing to job share either with or without a partner.

Applications from people with disabilities are particularly encouraged.

Benefits include season ticket loan and car leasing schemes, NHS pension scheme and Holiday Club. As a member of the London Hospital Social Club you will have access to swimming, squash and other sporting and social activities.

For an information package contact Debby Quant, Personnel Department, Tredegar House, 97-99 Bow Road, London E3. Telephone: 01-377 7933 during office hours.

Closing date: 23rd March 1990.

"WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES"

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Operations Division: Dept of Educational and Social Studies, London

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Soulbury Scale: Main or Senior 1-4 (specialist) ranges, £17,397-£23,679

One year contract initially, subject to review in the light of the Society's reorganisation plans.

Experienced Educational Psychologist required for assessment, advisory and intervention work with children and adolescents, contributing to the Society's Central Assessment Panel and within a wide range of educational settings, from mainstream to very specialised.

The successful candidate will be interested in the wide variety of learning problems presented by disabilities, primarily cerebral palsy, and their alleviation. Research and lecturing interests will be encouraged.

We are in the exciting process of bringing our services closer to the communities in which our clients live, through regionalisation and other major reorganisation, so considerable travel is involved. Leased car available.

For further details and application forms please write as soon as possible to the Principal Psychologist, Leslie Gardner, c/o 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ.

FOR SALE

RENAULT CLASSIC conversion D reg. Takes 1 or 2 wheelchairs plus 3 or 4 extra passengers. Ramp. All round windows. Curtains, carpet etc. VGC. Only 9000 miles. £6,500. Tel: 01-866 5632.

AUSTIN METRO 1983. Only 28,000 miles. Converted to take wheelchair and person in the back. Conversion cost £3,500. Very nice condition. £2,600 ono. Tel: 01-381 3364.

ALVEMA PUSHCHAIR red suit 2 years plus. Offers please. Also Rifton Bath Aid, small £25. Tel: Lincoln (0522) 750053.

ORTHOKINETIC BATH CHAIR – £30. Britax disabled child's car seat (up to age 12 approx.) £25. Orthokinetic travel chair with headrests, straps and table (reasonable condition) free. Tel: Royston (0763) 260854.

BROMAKIN RACER road racing wheelchair. Hardly used, as new. £350 ono. Tel: Matthew (Upminster) (04022) 21435.

TALBOT RANCHO V reg, L H drive, converted for wheelchair, front swivel seat, low mileage. £750. Tel: (0477) 35661 after 6pm.

NEWTON self propelling wheelchair, hardly used. £250 ono. Tel: (0382) 819663.

RED BATRICAR in good condition 6 years old. With charger and lights. Only needs new batteries. Any reasonable offer. Tel: (0722) 780477.

COLLAPSIBLE ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, lift up seat, 6 months old, battery charger, £1000 new, widow will accept £450. Tel: 01-889 6568.

BEC ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, "Kerbcrawler". 2 sets outdoor covers. Cost £1,500. Sell for £750. Tel: Heysham (0524) 54348.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Chairman auto pas. Red. F reg. Elec. windows and ramp. Hodge hand controls, auto clamp for E & J electric wheelchair. Only 6,500 miles. As new. £9,000 ono. Available early April. Tel: (0372) 273595.

BEC SCOOTER Sterling standard. 12 volt battery charger. Left hand arm rest. Lights, basket. Just over 12 months old. Cost £15,000. Sell for £1,000 ono. Tel: (0706) 640201.

BEC HORIZON 40 electric wheelchair. VGC. £500 ono. Chipstead Cheshire Home. Tel: (0732) 459510.

EVEREST & JENNINGS Electric indoor/outdoor wheelchair. Climbs curbs, indicators, horn, hazard lights, charger. Excellent condition. £850 ono. Tel: Barnstaple (0271) 75891.

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE. Central Uxbridge. 3 upstairs bedrooms. Large downstairs extension with bathroom. Designed for wheelchair user. Garage and space for 2 cars. Close Picadilly and Metropolitan lines. £139,500. Tel: (0895) 34611.

APOLLO BATH with built in lift. 1,650 mm. Honeysuckle. VGC. £750 ono. Delivery negotiable. Tel: Peter Knight 01-568 9217 (home) or 01-749 1681 (work).

CARTER CRUISER electric wheelchair with curb climber, folding backrest, battery charger. Brand new, completely unused. £1,000. No offers. Tel: 01-701 1476 or 01-701 5209.

1985 DODGE SERIES 50 midi coach Dormobile conversion with Ratcliff Chairlift. Maximum seating capacity 20 plus driver. Present internal arrangement allows 10 seated plus driver plus 5 wheelchairs. One owner from new. Genuine 14,000 miles only. MOT, service history. Contact John Guest (0206) 563321.

RIFTON ADULT standing frame with tray and 2 new Everest & Jennings wheelchair batteries. Offers, tel: (0260) 278559.

BMW 732i AUTO 1981. Blue. Power Steering, electric windows, electric sun roof, radio, stereo and electric aerial. Becker Hand Control. Full BMW service inc. New exhaust and tyres. V.G.C. £3,950. Tel: (0886) 21748.

JIGSAWS BY MAIL ORDER. Choose from over 300 Jigsaws inc. Waddingtons, Mandolin Heye. For free catalogue write to The Jigsaw Connection, 1 Main Road, Grindleford, Sheffield, S30 1HN, tel: (0433) 30121.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER E & J Runar-ound. Ideal curbs, pavements and home. Swivel seat, basket, cover. VGC. New batteries. Dismantles easily. Half price £750. Tel: Watford (0923) 221033.

METRO CHAIRMAN 1,000 cc. Adapted for wheelchair. E reg. Excellent condition. 7,000 miles. Colour red. £4,000. Tel: Newark (0636) 81328 (daytime) or (0636) 814569 (evenings).

BALSAN 3 BATH SPA with ozone control. Brand new. Cost £600. Sell for £350 ono. Tel: (0268) 558473 anytime.

BEC HORIZON electric pushchair. 6 months old. As new. Control box at rear on hand grips. £950 ono. Tel: (0902) 750691 after 6pm.

SPINNER right arm drive, light weight sports wheelchair. Genuine reason for sale. £700 ono. Tel: Peter 061-442 4070.

JUNE '87 NISSAN PRAIRIE 1.8 with Brotherwood Conversion for wheelchair passenger. 14,000 miles. Excellent condition. £10,000. Tel: Doncaster (0302) 322640.

RATCLIFF WELFARE 300 tailgate lift. Excellent condition. Any reasonable offers. Tel: (05297) 369.

NISSAN PRAIRIE 1.5. B reg. Fitted with car chair and electric lift to front passenger seat. Excellent condition. £3,500. Tel: (052286) 628.

BATRICAR BETA, electric tricycle. Complete with charger and proportional control. Will recharge overnight. Would cost over £1000 new. Accept £500. Tel: Brasier (0449) 720401.

UNWANTED GIFT – Batricar, 24 Deluxe 3. Yellow, hardly used. With charger, hood, lights, indicators. New £2,800. Will accept £1,600 ono. Contact Mrs Sue Laidlaw, Westmount Haven, Perran-coombe, Perranporth, Cornwall TR6 OJQ, tel: (0872) 572150.

BROTHERWOOD CONVERSIONS have for sale a range of secondhand converted vehicles for transporting the wheelchair bound, from £5,000. For a detailed list please phone (0935) 872603 or send SAE, Brotherwood Conversions, Station Garage, Yetminster, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6LH.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS, scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

HAVE YOU BEEN YET? The new Keep Able store has hundreds of products to try out, all under one roof. Wheelchairs, scooters, high seat chairs, and much more. Free advice from therapists. Visit soon. Keep Able, Capital Interchange Way, Brentford, tel: 01-742 2181.

WHEELCHAIR WINCH to fit in boot of car. In perfect condition, little used. Essex. £150. Tel: 01-508 9109.

VOLVO 340, E Reg, 1.7 manual, 5 gears, excellent condition, 19,000 miles. Fitted with car chair passenger side. Metallic ocean blue. Electric windows. Radio Cassette. £7,650. Tel: Abergavenny (0873) 4016.

BATRICAR, blue, cover, battery, charger. V.G.C. Hardly used. £600 ono. Tel: 01-580 8591 ext 221 (daytime), 01-309 7313 (evening).

4 BED, DETACHED HOUSE, specially adapted for wheelchair user. 1 bedroom downstairs. Downstairs, fully wheelchair accessible. Also terraced garden. £155,000. For further information contact: Mr L W Gallimore, 22 Uppingham Drive, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 4TH, tel: (0734) 692220.

E REG 1.6 PEUGEOT 205 automatic. 22,000 miles. 1 lady owner, V.G.C. Hand controls fitted. £5,950. Tel: (0283) 760924.

ADULT TRICYCLE, perfect condition, 2 years old, hardly used; lights, baskets, lock etc. Cost £350 new, accept £200 ono. Tel: 01-686 3831.

CROWN HOUSE FURSE Electric Stairlift Model 185. £600. Tel: 061-998 8058, Mrs Seaborn.

ORTHOMED ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR with car lift (originally fitted to a standard Ford Escort). Wheelchair approx. 4 years old, good working order. Offers considered. Units available for viewing, Lanarkshire. Tel: (0236) 21763.

POIRIER GLOBE ROLLER Wheelchair, blue, ultra-light, 8 wheel-axle positions, seat width 15.5 in. 1 year old. Originally £780. Accept £300. Tel: Hailsham (0323) 844884.

VOLKSWAGON MINIBUS adapted for two wheelchair users and driver and 5/6 passengers. One owner since new, garaged, T reg, low mileage, excellent condition. Aluminium ramps and Unwin clamps. £2,250 ono. Tel: 01-948 1874.

VESSA VITESSE Mk111 electric wheelchair with curb climbers, 16 inch wide seat. £600 ono. Tel: 01-948 1874.

MINI CHAIR AMBULANCE. Fiat Fiorino Freedom Conversion. 1049 cc. 26,500 miles. 2 owners. 1983. Sale due to bereavement. £2,500. Tel: 01-868 4981 (evenings or weekends).

VESSA VITESSE powered wheelchair. Recently had new batteries, motor and tyres fitted. In very good working order. £450 ono. Tel: J Linsell 01-263 8372.

1983 POYNTINGS conversion Maestro to carry wheelchair passenger. Excellent condition. Under 7,000 miles. Taxed until January 1991. £6,500. Tel: (0358) 22681.

FIAT FIORINO van, professionally converted to carry a wheelchair. 1984, white, genuine 11,500 miles only. Superb condition, full windows. Only £2,100. Tel: (0256) 862185 (days) or (0256) 703042 (evenings).

PARKER KNOLL reclining chair. Specially made for disabled person, many extras. As new. £300. Tel: (0932) 566267.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

HOLIDAYS

WEST WALES. Self-catering on farm in Dylan Thomas Country. Ideally suited for touring West Wales – beaches, riding, golf, fishing etc nearby. Renovated barn adapted for disabled people. B & B, home cooked meals in old barn. Special diets. Contact Tim & Sue Giles, Pantgwyn Farm, Whitmill, Carmarthen SA32 7ES, tel: (0267) 290247.

LOS CRISTIANOS, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbot, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

FAMILY-RUN Guesthouse on superb coastal site with views across the sea to Llandudno and Snowdonia mountains beyond. The garden, with its stone castle and rock pool has been designed especially for disabled people. All ground floor rooms including en suite bedrooms are totally accessible for wheelchair users and are centrally heated. Special diets catered for. Bryn Meirion Guest House, Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SR, tel: (0248) 853118.

LANZAROTE, Costa Teguisse. Private villa, sleeps 6, maid service, 5 star holiday complex, several pools, bars, private beach. Fully accessible for wheelchair users. Available Aug 9 – Aug 23. Tel: (07072) 65913.

HOLIDAY GUEST ROOMS at Harrogate, North Yorkshire. One double en suite room and one single bedded room. Fully adapted for disabled people. Available for holiday/respite care at St Georges House – a residential/nursing home run by The Yorkshire Association

SEND US YOUR SMALLS...

...and make a big impression. Small ads in DN reach over 80,000 people for just £2 a line (minimum £8). Please don't send money with your ad – we will invoice you after it goes in. Phone 01-636 5020 ext 245.

for the Disabled. For further details apply to: St Georges House, 7/9 Harlow Oval, Harrogate HG2 0AA, tel: (0423) 504360.

HOLIDAY CARAVAN at Barmston Beach, Nr Bridlington. Self catering – 7 berth caravan. Fully adapted for disabled people. Close to beach. On site facilities including entertainment, swimming pool, shops, cafe, laundrettes. For further details apply to: The Yorkshire Association for the Disabled, St Georges House, 7/9 Harlow Oval, Harrogate HG2 0AA, tel: (0423) 504360.

HOLIDAY CARAVANS near Abergele, Wales. Fully equipped for people with disabilities and their families, inc connecting ramp, washer, tv, fridge etc. Easy access to beach and railway station. For rates and reservations contact Mr W Younger, tel: Clitheroe (0200) 41319 after 6pm.

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson, tel: (0924) 454300.

Have you tried a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** holiday in Britain or Overseas? Great fun and full care provided. Write for a free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 01-833 2594.

SUNNY TENERIFE, Los Christianos. As featured on tv and radio, the beautiful Mar y Sol Health and Fitness Resort. Purpose-built, totally wheelchair-accessible. Swimming pools, saunas, gymnasium, physiotherapy. Apartments for rent or ownership. I can arrange your flights too! "Brilliant ... Amazing!" says BBC TV's The Travel Show. Come, see for yourself! Specially adapted taxi service from Tenerife airport. Video (£15 refundable deposit) brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW, tel: 051-339 5316.

NORTH DEVON – Self-catering cottages sleeping 4/6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated – linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

RED CROSS HOUSE, Inverness. Offers respite/care activity holidays throughout the year to disabled people aged between 16 years and retirement age. A 24 hour care facility is provided by the skilled care staff and voluntary helpers. Accommodation is single hotel standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer. For further information please contact Mike Webster on Inverness (0463) 234939.

KINGFISHER 1 is a traditional steel narrowboat with a difference. This boat is from stem to stern designed and built for wheelchair users. 60 feet long, sleeping 6/7 people with full central heating, tv and radio. Fitted with unique equipment including hydraulic lifts that can be operated from a wheelchair. Kingfisher 1 is based on the breathtaking and tranquil Shropshire Union Canal. If you are looking for that special holiday this year contact Dartline Cruisers, Canal Wharf, Bunbury, Tarporley, Cheshire, tel: (0829) 260638.

WANTED

URGENTLY NEEDED, a vehicle converted to take a boy in his wheelchair, preferably Nissan Prairie. Tel: (0872) 77983.

BEC SCOOTA PLUS or Trooper with front bumper and hand adjustable steering column. Tel: Hitchin (0462) 458050 after 6 pm.

LIVE IN HELPER required by disabled man. Male or female, aged 18 to 35 with clean driving licence. No experience necessary. Apply to Mike May, 14 Valley Drive, Newthorpe, Nottingham.

ADAPTED METRO or similar, automatic, assisted steering, servo brakes. To enable driver to remain in own wheelchair. Tel: Mrs Bryan (0306) 883055.

OLD POSTCARDS, cigarette cards, Kensitas, Flowers, old Rupert Annuals. For sale, second hand books all subjects. Also G.B. mint stamps and F.D.C. Send wants. Geoff's Book Den, 377, Bolton Road, Bury, Lancs BL8 2PH.

BEC SCOOTA in good, sound condition. Essex. Tel 01-508 9109.

the Foundation for Communication for the Disabled

Small organisation based in Surrey supplying equipment for disabled people with communication problems, has an opportunity for a computer literate person (common sense is more important to us than depth of computer experience). The job would include a) helping to find the most appropriate system for individuals, b) setting up PCs and other equipment before dispatch, c) giving technical assistance to users and d) assisting in the running of our office. Applicants must be drivers and should be prepared to stay away from home from time to time.

A competitive salary will be offered depending on experience. Please write giving details of relevant background to:

**The Manager,
The Foundation for Communication for the Disabled,
Foundation House, Church Street West,
Woking, Surrey GU21 1DJ.**



SOUTH GLAMORGAN DE MORGANNWG

South Glamorgan County Council is keen to encourage people with disabilities to apply for its vacancies and applicants who meet the essential requirements of any post applied for will be guaranteed an interview if they have a disability.

For further information about jobs available with the County Council please contact:-

**Jill Nicholls
Personnel and Management Services Division
Room 435
South Glamorgan County Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff CF1 5UW.**

The Regional Arts Association for Lincolnshire & Humberside wishes to establish a Professional Consultancy to assist Lincolnshire & Humberside Arts and its key clients in the development of policy and practice relating to ARTS & DISABILITY.

A fee of £6000 is payable for 80 days Consultancy together with travel allowance and expenses up to a maximum of £2000.

Lincolnshire & Humberside Arts positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities.

Further details, also available on tape from
Edwina Parker-Brown, Deputy Director,
LHA, St Hugh's, Newport, Lincoln,
LN1 3DN. Tel: 0522 533555.

FUNDED BY
Lincolnshire & Humberside
ARTS

INFORMATION OFFICER SALARY £15,000 PER ANNUM INCLUSIVE (Based at Headquarters in South London)

The Muscular Dystrophy Group is seeking a second Information Officer to provide an information, advice and telephone counselling service for people who have M.D. and their families. This Service is also used by a wide range of professionals working directly with people who have neuromuscular conditions.

The MD Group is currently reviewing and expanding the Information Service and the postholder will have the opportunity of taking part in discussions relating to future developments. We are seeking someone with experience of working with people who have a disability. Previous training in counselling skills would be an advantage.

Good personal support, secretarial back-up and training opportunities will be provided.

Applications are particularly invited from people with disabilities.

For further details and an application form please apply to:

The Support Services Manager,
The Muscular Dystrophy Group,
35 Macaulay Road,
London SW4 0QP

For an informal chat please ring
Tony Cherry or Ann Donato on
01-720 8055

Closing date for applications: Friday 23 March 1990.



KINGSTON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

18 hrs (negotiable) £4090 p.a.

A new and innovative organisation providing transport services to a wide range of community groups and individuals in Kingston, requires an administrative assistant who will be responsible for providing clerical and secretarial support to ensure the proper administration of the organisation.

For job description and application form phone KCT on 01-547 3513 (ansaphone).

North Kingston Centre,
Richmond Rd, Kingston KT2 5PE

CARERS REQUIRED

All areas, live in/out perm/temp. Attitude is more important than experience.

Send s.a.e. to:

Rainbow Care Agency,
684 Sidcup Road,
New Eltham, London SE9 3AL.
Tel: 01-857 3371.

FIND-A-FRIEND

YOUNG MAN with CP, 27 years old, looking for female friendship for letter writing video viewing or company for occasional film or meal out. Disabled walker with own car. Interests, computing videos, chess and travel. Lives and works Reading area. Box No. 271.

29 YEAR OLD FEMALE, fun loving and enjoys going to the theatre, pictures, dining out, driving and having a go at most sports. Would like to meet a male who is able bodied or who can walk quite well. Box No. 272.

LADY WITH CP and partially deaf, age 37. Would like to meet/correspond with disabled men with similar disabilities, age 36-41. Must be caring and sharing. Hobbies: swimming, dining out, listening to music, visits etc. Box No. 273.

DISABLED MALE in a wheelchair. Newcomer to London, working as a research officer. Independent. Fluent in French. Enjoys travel. Would like to have a friend. Box No. 274.

MALE 35, lives in Scotland. Hobbies: swimming, cooking, music and pool. Would like to meet a female in her 30's who likes to enjoy herself to the best of her abilities. Box No. 275.

BRIGHT YOUNG LAD, (36+), many interests include: cinema, theatre, music (all kinds, particularly classical) photography, wildlife. I'm intelligent, attractive and have empathy (yeah - plenty of faults too) a dry sense of humour and an oblique outlook on life. I'm in a wheelchair due to a spinal chord injury (tetraplegic) but I'm active and I drive. Live Middlesex. If you're female, in 30's early 40's, feel we may have something in common and are hoping for a lasting relationship please write. Box No. 276.

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

YOUNG RETIRED LADY. Plymouth born, living in Sussex, seeks to correspond with educated gentleman living in Plymouth. Possible meeting later in the year. Genuine and sincere replies please. Box No. 277.

MALE 25. Interests include driving, archery, food and good company. Seeks lady of 25-30 for companionship and to share life with. Box No. 278.

30 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALE with a visual disability in N.E. London. My ingredients are, art, food/wine and horse riding with a pinch of leftist politics thrown in. If you are an interested woman then get in contact. Box No. 280.

To reply to Find-a-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private & Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 3.

WALTHAM FOREST HEALTH AUTHORITY

"Working to Improve Health"

COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT MENTAL HANDICAP SERVICES

Leytonstone House, Leytonstone High Road, London E11 1HS

PROJECT MANAGER/SYSTEM ORGANISER (MENTAL HANDICAP INFORMATION SYSTEM)

Salary: Grade 6 £12,902 - £14,934 inclusive of London Weighting
Ref No: L145

Short term contract of 6 months (may be extendable)

We are in the process of developing a Mental Handicap Information System. The hardware and software has been purchased and we are seeking an individual with the appropriate skills and aptitude with an interest in data collection to move this project forward.

For an informal discussion on the aims and content of the post please contact:-

David Nance, Service Manager, Leytonstone House, Tel: 01-989 7701

Application form and job description available from the Personnel Department on 01-520 0690 (24 hour answer phone)

Closing date: 23 March 1990

This Authority aims to be an equal opportunity employer

LAMBETH

SERVICES WELL WORTH DEFENDING

Well worth working for.

WHAT INTERESTS US IS YOUR ABILITY.

If you want more information about working for Lambeth, or would like to receive a regular copy of our Vacancy Circular, please contact:

The Disability Officer
Equal Opportunities,
Olive Morris House,
18 Brixton Hill,
London, SW2 1RL
or telephone 274 7722
extension 3009.

PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependents and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities as they are under-represented among the Council's staff.

LAMBETH

SERVICES WELL WORTH DEFENDING

FINANCE

Assistant Financial Controller (Education)

£21,354-£22,764 pa inc.

You will deputise for the Financial Controller in developing and maintaining financial systems, and reporting to the Director of Finance on all financial aspects of transfer and development of Education. Specific responsibilities will be given for budget preparation/co-ordination, financial and management accounting, budget monitoring, systems development and line management of senior accountants. Attendance at officer and member level meetings will also be required. You will have a record of achievement, wide experience of finance and accounting, computerised accounting and proven management ability including implementation of Equal Opportunity policies, and related anti-racist and anti-sexist policies.

The concurrent advertising of this post has been agreed by the ILEA staff side commission.

Completed application forms must be received by 6th March 1990. Ref: F16.*

Audit Assistants

£13,389-£14,184 pa inc.

(Essential Car Allowance available)

The Internal Audit Division are seeking Audit Assistants to carry out duties on one of the Audit Groups. The postholders must be able to carry out Audit projects with a minimum amount of supervision. Projects could include systems audits, probity audits, and assistance on investigations including those relating to frauds. Postholders must be able to demonstrate good verbal and reporting skills. The posts will be attached to one of the four audit groups in the Division. The postholders must also demonstrate understanding of an Equal Opportunity Policy.

Closing date: 8th March 1990. Ref: F15.*



Telephone 01-274 7722 ext 2534 for an application form, or write to: The Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL.

Preferably telephone for an application form
Always quote the correct reference number

* POST SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARE

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.

Well worth
working for.

134 Project Project Worker £12,012

The 134 Project is a NACRO resettlement project based in Lambeth, offering supported accommodation for women and men released from prison. Many of our residents are black, so it is essential that you can work in an anti-racist way. The Project is aiming to respond to the needs of lesbians and gay men.

The post will involve work with residents to assist them with resettlement into permanent housing and will also involve basic housing management.

We are looking for people who are able to:

- work in a style which encourages residents to develop their own skills
- work in a multi-racial team
- implement Equal Opportunities Policies
- work in an anti-sexist manner.
- demonstrate an understanding attitude towards non-heterosexuals.

Training will be provided if needed and we welcome applications from people who wish to job-share.

For an application form please send a large S.A.E. to: The Administrator, 134 Project, Second Floor, 32 Brixton Road, London SW9 6BU.

Closing date: 13 March 1990.

We regret that at present the 134 Project has no wheelchair access to any of its properties.

NACRO

NACRO aims to be an equal opportunities employer and to eliminate unfair discrimination against anyone in its selection process.

for the care of offenders and prevention of crime

GRAEAE THEATRE COMPANY REQUIRE

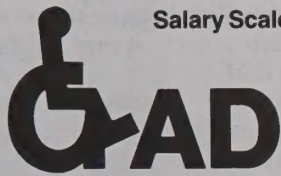
For drama workshop residency in Nottingham – mid-April for six weeks:
Three experienced workshop leaders (we are seeking disabled people for these posts).
Stage Manager – Equity with clean driving licence.
For National Tour of Community Theatre – mid-April for twelve weeks:
Assistant Stage Manager – Equity with clean driving licence.
Deadline for all applications: 15th March 1990.
Apply to: Graeae Theatre Company, 25 Bayham Street,
London NW1 0EY. 01-383 7541 or 01-383 7492. Minicom available.
Graeae is an ITC/Equity company and an equal opportunities employer.

GREENWICH ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE'S CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Greenwich Association of Disabled People (GAD) are seeking an Advice and Information Officer to provide a comprehensive advice service to disabled people, including benefit advice, access to local services etc. Candidates will be expected to recruit, train and supervise a team of volunteers to assist with this service. They must be able to demonstrate good communication skills. Knowledge of new technology and information retrieval will be an advantage.

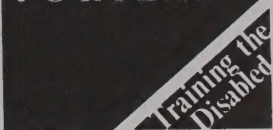
This post is only open to disabled candidates. Applications are particularly welcome from black and asian disabled people.

Salary Scale NJC 26 (£12,504 including LW).



Further details from:
GAD, Christchurch Forum,
Trafalgar Road,
Greenwich SE10 9EQ.
Telephone: 305-2221.

PORTLAND

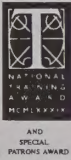


PORTLAND TRAINING COLLEGE FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED
Nottingham Road,
Mansfield, Notts.
NG18 4TJ

An enthusiastic and committed teacher is required for the Summer term, or as soon after as possible, to lead a small group of dedicated professionals in the largest alternative and augmentative communication centre in the United Kingdom. The unit teaches communications skills to severely and multi handicapped 16+ students and has recently won a National Training Award and the Special Patron's Award for excellence in innovation. Both high and low tech systems are used and the successful candidate will be required to work with electronic voice synthesizers using a language system developed at the College.

Salary by negotiation.

Please send large SAE for Job Description and apply in writing to the Director.



Chief Executive's Department

DISABILITY CO-ORDINATOR

Up to £22,900 p.a. inc.

Job details and this advertisement are also available on tape. Waltham Forest is looking for an energetic and enthusiastic disabled person committed to achieving equal opportunities in service provision and employment. You will develop and co-ordinate policies and strategies across the Council to ensure that services and facilities in the Borough are fully accessible. In this senior position you will play a key role in implementing the Disablement Advisory Panel's Code of Practice, and advise all departments on issues affecting people with disabilities in our multi-racial community. You will co-ordinate the work of specialist officers in different departments and work closely with voluntary organisations in developing procedures within the Authority. You must be able to demonstrate a full awareness of disability issues. Previous relevant experience of working in the field of disabilities and influencing policies and practices is desirable. You must be determined to achieve change and overcome prejudice and inertia. This post is also available to persons wishing to work on a job share basis. Applications for this post are restricted to persons having a physical, sensory or learning disability (registered or unregistered). As such, facilities will be provided, if required, for carers/escorts to accompany candidates to the interview and their expenses will be reimbursed. Members of the black and ethnic minority communities and women are under-represented at this level and we would particularly welcome their applications. (Section 38 Race Relations Act and Section 47 Sex Discrimination Act apply). Closing date: 16.3.90.

Ref: H149/DN

► Further details and application forms are available from the Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF. Tel: 01-531 8899 (24 hour answering service).

This post is available for job share.

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. All applications for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager,
Jonathan Wine,
Kingslea Press Limited,
12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU
Telephone:
01-252 1362
Fax: 01-237 8019

Help!

The Post Office has introduced a new system called PRESSTREAM.

Publications, like DN, will have to pay more postage for labels with no postcode.

Please help us to save money by returning your address label with your correct postcode added, to Circulation Manager, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS is very sorry, but, temporarily there is no access for people with disabilities. An announcement will be made shortly in *Disability Now* informing people of new facilities at the Royal Academy.



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons Ladies should not be shy of applying!

All enquiries to: HANDIDATE
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

Moving House?

Any change to your DN address label will be handled quicker if you send details direct to the Circulation Manager,
Gayle Mooney, 12 Park Crescent,
London W1N 4EQ
tel: 01-636 5020, ext. 244.
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR POST CODE!

If you would like DN on tape contact Gayle Mooney on 01-636 5020 ext 244.

MIDLAND MOBILITY CENTRE

Nearly new, battery cars, scooters and electric wheelchairs, bought and sold throughout the country.

For further information and advice contact us anytime on

021 366 6796

Integration, Independence and Equality

ARE YOU FROM THE BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITY? DO YOU HAVE A DISABILITY?

Would you be interested in part-time and/or temporary work?

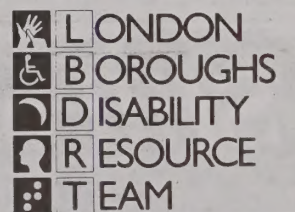
The London Boroughs' Disability Resource Team is presently involved in the establishment of locally based groups of ethnic minority people with disabilities.

The Team requires assistance in conducting this work which would involve close liaison with local councils and voluntary organisations, with a particular emphasis on community outreach and contacting groups and individuals from the ethnic minority community.

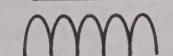
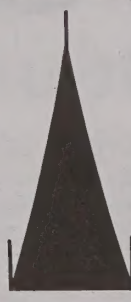
An understanding of the needs and expectations of people with disabilities and members of the ethnic minority community, as well as good communication skills, would be an asset.

Hours, rate of pay and period of engagement are open to discussion and individual arrangement. For details write to Mike Goodman, LBDRT, Room 95, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB, or telephone 01-633 3950 (answaphone).

The particular needs of disabled people, women, lesbians and gay men and people from minority ethnic communities constitute an important focus for our work. Applications are encouraged from disabled people from these groups and from disabled people generally.



WHO'S IN THE NEWS?



HOME OFFICE

The Home Office is always in the news because we are involved in so many of the important issues that affect life in Britain today; balancing the rights, freedoms and duties of the individual in society is the main part of our work. We can offer you the chance to take an active role in our changing world by doing a job that matters. As an EXECUTIVE OFFICER in our Westminster and Croydon offices, you can become involved in the important responsibilities of the management team, and experience a variety of challenging work, a genuinely rewarding career and good promotion opportunities.

Salaries (Westminster: at age 20 or above and including London weighting) range from £10,323 - £13,865. We work a 5 day week of 36 hours with flexitime usually available. Other benefits include assistance with further education, interest-free season ticket loans, sports and social clubs, 22 days paid holiday (25 days, or 5 weeks, after twelve months) plus 10½ public and privilege holidays.

To be eligible, you should be at least 17½ and under 50 years old, and have a degree; or five acceptable GCE/GCSE passes including English, two of which must be 'A' level; or equivalent or higher qualifications.

We welcome applications from candidates regardless of disability, ethnic origin, sex or marital status. People with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities are currently under-represented and their applications are particularly welcome.

For an information pack and application form, telephone 01-217 5669/5260/5231 (answering service operates outside office hours) or write to Home Office Recruitment Section, Room 817, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LH.

Parents in long wait for repayment ruling

Parents of disabled children, who are facing benefit repayment demands of up to £2,500 from the Department of Social Security, may now be saved by a new ruling from the Social Security Commissioners.

They have decided that a decision on repayment should be made under the 1975 Social Security Act and not the 1986 Act.

The 1986 Act abolished the 1975 defence that if claimants had used "due care and diligence" to avoid overpayment they did not have to repay. So now the DSS has only to show that the claimant failed to disclose a relevant fact or misrepresented the facts, even if this was done innocently.

The parents of Joanne Harrison, who has cerebral palsy and is mentally and physically disabled, have been asked to repay £250 in attendance allowance.

They are refusing because they say they were given misleading advice. Mrs Harrison asked her local DSS (then DHSS) office if Joanne's odd nights of respite care would affect her attendance allowance.

It said not unless she went in for 28 days, but failed to explain that this meant in total.

"I took it they meant 28 days consecutively," said Mrs Harri-

son. It took Joanne three years to run up a total of 28 nights.

In 1985, the year that Joanne became 16, Mrs Harrison applied for the higher rate of attendance allowance and severe disablement allowance for her daughter. She filled in details about Joanne's respite care but was awarded both benefits in full.

In May 1988, the DSS said Joanne's attendance allowance had been overpaid from 1983-85. Mrs Harrison refused to repay the money and the case went to a social security tribunal.

It wanted a ruling on whether the DSS could apply the 1986 Act retrospectively and the Social Security Commissioners last month ruled that it could not.

Before the Harrisons' case can go any further they have to wait for a ruling on another, similar, case in which one Commissioner ruled that the Act could not be applied retrospectively. The DSS has taken that case to the Court of Appeal.

"Even if the Court of Appeal says the DSS can apply it retrospectively, we won't pay," said Mrs Harrison. "We'll go to the Court of Appeal too."

Several hundred parents around the country are thought to be in the same predicament.

The Harrisons' test case could go on for several more years.



Members of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People stopping traffic outside the Department of Health in Whitehall, London last month. They were protesting at the Government's changes in disability benefits (DN February). "We will continue to campaign for a better deal," said BCODP chair John Evans.

REBECCA REYNOLDS

New deaf aid on NHS

A hearing aid which can help totally deaf children to learn speech is available on the NHS for the first time.

The Government will spend £3 million in the next three years on the electronic implant operations and speech training.

The operation is for children and adults who have been deafened by meningitis, head injury or Menieres disease, rather than for people born deaf.

It is especially important for young children because they may not learn to speak if they remain totally deaf.

Electronic devices are implanted next to the cochlea, giving the person speech-like sounds which can be interpreted with the help of lip-reading.

Two devices are available. The single channel aid costs about £500 pounds, while the multi-channel, which is imported from Australia, costs £15,000.

Regional health authorities will bid for funding, and up to six centres will be chosen.

Hilary Pearce of the Royal National Institute of the Deaf expects long waiting lists. "There may be 8,000 people in Britain who need the operation."

So far about 50 adults and three children have had the operation in Britain, funded privately or by charities.

Still only £6 a year!

DN Britain's leading disability newspaper

- is bigger and better after a year on subscription.
- more pages
- more job ads
- more colour
- more news and information



If you are a disabled person, a parent or a professional,
DN is essential reading.
Don't miss the coming year.
Subscribe by filling in this form and we will send you your very own DN pen.

Individual copies £6 Organisations/local authorities £10 Overseas readers £10
Multiple copies annually: 10-50 copies a month, £75; 51-100 copies, £100

DISABILITY NOW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION Ref:

Please return this form to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ with your remittance made payable to THE SPASTICS SOCIETY.

Name _____ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Disability and/or profession _____

Please tick ☐ Individual £6 ☐ Organisation £10

☐ Overseas £10 (Sterling) ☐ Disabled on low income, free.

☐ Multiples: _____ Copies £ _____

I/We enclose ☐ Cheque/P.O. ☐ Bankers Order (see below)

☐ A donation towards costs £ _____

I authorise you to charge my ☐ VISA ☐ ACCESS

Account No. _____

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

ANNUAL BANKERS ORDER

DISABILITY NOW

Return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, not to your Bank.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Your Bank Account No. _____ Sort Code _____

To the Manager _____ (Your Bank)

at _____

Postcode _____

Please pay to the account of The Spastics Society (12729280) National Westminster Bank Plc, Euston Centre Branch (60:50:03) London NW1 3BA the sum of

£ _____ (Amount in words)

on _____ 19 _____ and thereafter on the same day each year until further notice.

Signature _____

FOR BANK USE ONLY
QUOTE REF.

DN

Please ensure that all parts of the form are completed and any alterations initialled. Disability Now is a non-profit publication. Receipts on request. Sorry, no refunds.